WEDNESDAY
March 29, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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TWITTER ACTION

BBC News Punjabi 'withheld', restored

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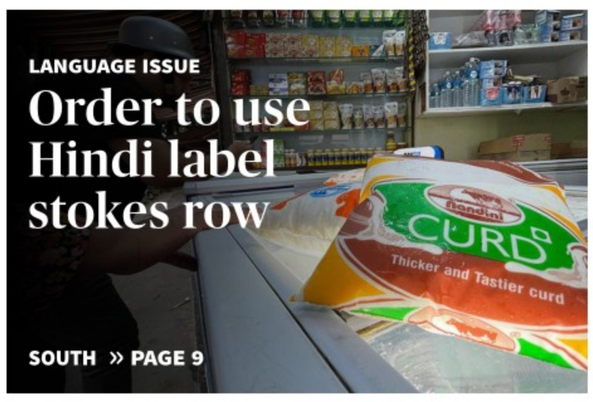

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Order to use Hindi label stokes row

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PATIENTS IN PERIL

Prices of 384 essential drugs to go up in April

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POLITICAL TACTIC

Normalisation of lawfare and its fallout

Judiciary's reputation is also at stake

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

ABDUCTION CASE

Ex-MP Atiq Ahmed sentenced to life term

NEWS » PAGE 12

EPFO set to marginally hike interest on deposits to 8.15%

After Finance Ministry's approval, the interest will be credited into subscribers' accounts; Central Board of Trustees asks EPFO to simplify the process of submitting joint options for higher pension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recommended an increase of 0.05% in the interest on Provident Fund deposits.

The new rate, applicable for 2022-23, will be 8.15%. Union Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the decision after a two-day meeting of the CBT ended here on Tuesday.

In 2020-21, the interest rate was 8.5%. The CBT cut it to 8.1% (for 2021-22) in March 2022 drawing widespread criticism. Trade unions had criticised the Centre for reducing the interest rate every year.

Tuesday's meeting also discussed the delay in implementing the Supreme Court's verdict on higher PF pension. The Minister said the Centre's effort was to implement the order.

Members urged the EPFO to make the process of filing options simpler. They said that as most of the applicants were senior citizens, they should not be asked to run around by making it a cumbersome process. "Joint declaration, which has been sought, is tough to fulfil. Companies may not be maintaining the records beyond five to seven years. Retirees may have migrated to their native places. It should be made an easy process," a member told *The Hindu* after the meeting.

The EPFO is learnt to have agreed to issue a detailed clarification in layman's language with a list of frequently asked questions and answers.

An official release said the interest rate would be notified in the Government Gazette after the approval of the Ministry of Finance, following which the EPFO would credit the rate of interest into its subscribers' accounts. "The recommended rate of interest of 8.15% safeguards the surplus fund as well as guarantees increased income to members. In fact, the rate of interest at 8.15% and the surplus of ₹663.91 crore is higher than last year," the release added.

The Union Labour Ministry added in the release that the decision involves the distribution of more than ₹90,000 crore in the members' accounts.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Upward revision

The EPFO board has recommended a new interest rate of 8.15% on deposits for FY23. A lowdown:

- This proposed interest rate is an increase from the previous year's rate of 8.10%
- Upon approval from the Finance Ministry, depositors are set to receive approximately ₹90,000 crore as interest during FY23
- The updated rate will benefit around 27 crore account holders, including 69 million monthly contributors and over 7.1 million pensioners
- The board has requested the Ministry to issue simpler guidelines on higher PF pensions

Big win for Palaniswami in HC; OPS suffers jolt

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday rejected all interim applications filed by AIADMK expelled leaders O. Panneerselvam (OPS), P.H. Manoj Pandian, R. Vaithilingam and J.C.D. Prabhakar to restrain the party from implementing its July 11, 2022 general council resolutions and the consequent notification issued on March 17 for general secretary election.

Following the court verdict, the AIADMK announced that former Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami had been elected unopposed as its general secretary.

Justice K. Kumaresh Babu held that the July 11 resolutions were *prima facie* valid and therefore do not call for any interference.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Constitutional bodies fighting corruption under attack, says PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday launched a scathing attack against what he termed conspiracies by forces within and outside the country to undermine constitutional institutions that were cracking down on corruption and the corrupt.

Addressing BJP leaders and cadre at the inauguration of an extension of the party headquarters here, he said India's march towards development and the strong governance agenda were based on the foundation of constitutional institutions, but attempts were being made to defame these institutions.

"Today, when India is on its way to realise its full potential, it is doing so on the basis of a strong foundation. That foundation is our constitutional institutions. That is why, to stop

Narendra Modi

India in its growth trajectory, this foundation is being attacked and efforts are on to defame them by forces within and outside country... their credibility is being sought to be finished. When investigative and enforcement agencies act against those wrapped in corruption, these agencies are attacked, when courts give verdicts inimical to such people, courts and the judiciary are attacked," Mr. Modi said.

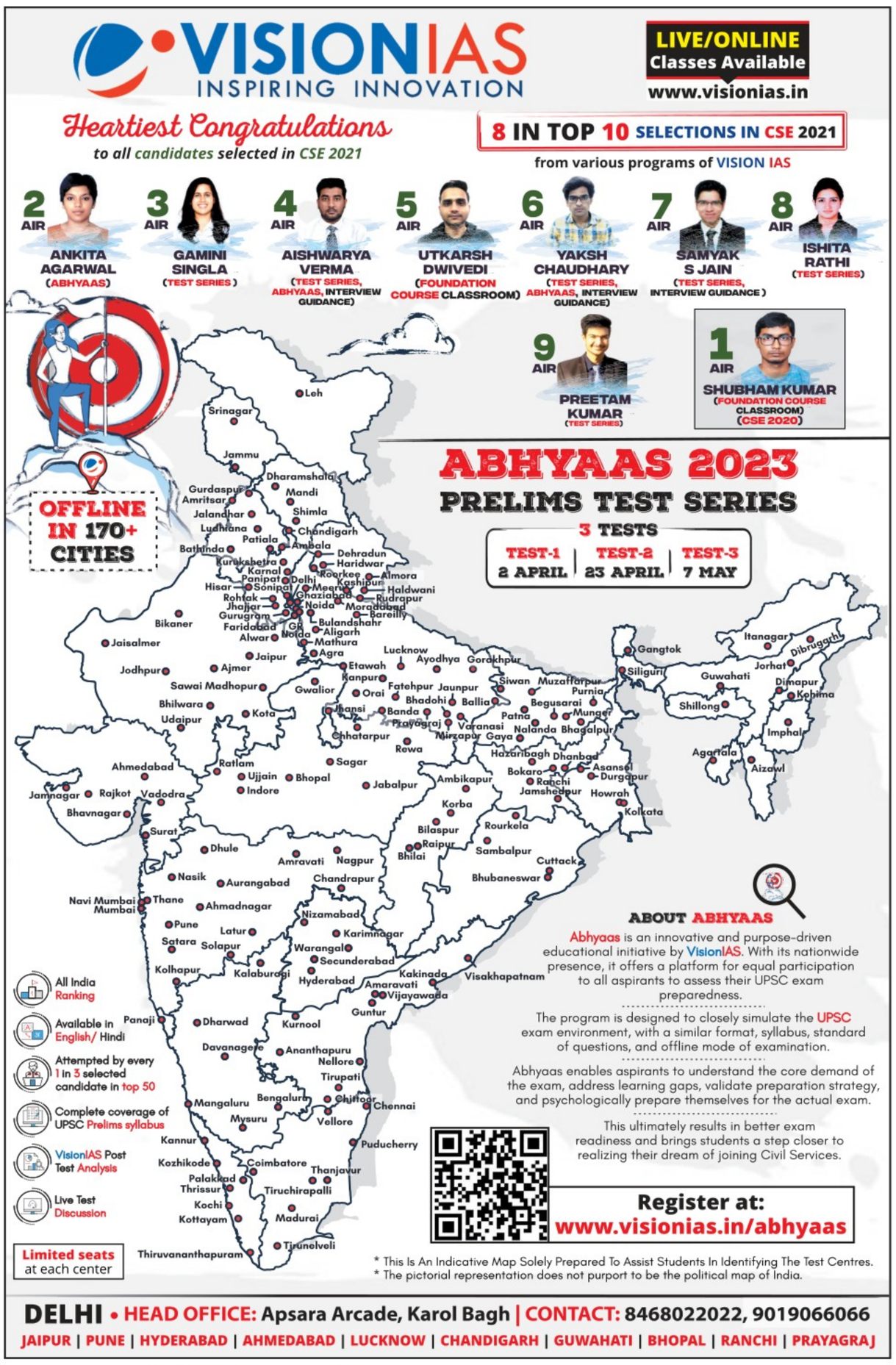
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

NEARBY

Action against those disfiguring public places

BENGALURU
BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath has issued a circular asking the Zonal Commissioners to take action against defacement of public places and illegal banners and posters. » Page 2

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3



Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The Royal Bengal Tigers and leopards killed since 2012

29 At least three Royal Bengal Tigers and 26 leopards were killed by poachers in the forests of Odisha in the last decade said State Forest, Environment and Climate Change Minister P. K Amat, replying to a question from Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati. PTI

H3N2 cases from January 1 to March 21 reported in India

1,317 cases. The count of cases was released in a written reply by the Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the influenza working group is reviewing the data for seasonal influenza vaccination. PTI

The written-off loans recovered by PSU banks in last 5 years

14 percentage. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha that of the written-off loans worth ₹7.34 lakh crore, ₹1.03 lakh crore was recovered by Public Service Banks (PSU) and the net written-off stood at ₹6.31 lakh crore in the last five years. PTI

Worth of assets attached by ED against Karnataka-based bank

114 in ₹ crore. Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha in Bengaluru is alleged to have misappropriated ₹800 crore funds. The attached properties are in the form of 21 immovable assets, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said. PTI

Suspected members of Sikh extremist group arrested in Philippines

3 members. Officers from the Philippine Bureau of Immigration, the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) and the Military Intelligence Group arrested the members during a joint operation by the Philippine government agencies. PTI

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The quota kerfuffle in Karnataka

Why has the BJP government in Karnataka removed the three-decade old 4% reservation for Muslims in the OBC category? Which are the communities that have gained from this move? How exactly has the reservation matrix within the State changed?

EXPLAINER

Sharath S. Srivatsa

The story so far:

At the Cabinet meeting in Karnataka on Friday, the BJP government did away with the nearly three-decade-old 4% reservation for Muslims in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and distributed it equally among the Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaligas, two dominant land-owning communities in the State, at 2% each. Quick on its heels, the government also accorded internal reservation for 101 Scheduled Castes (SC). Both these decisions have come under intense political debate.

How has OBC and SC reservation changed?

The Cabinet decided to exclude Muslims from the OBC category and scrapped the 4% reservation given to them under Category 2B.

This has been divided equally among Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats for whom new categories of 2C and 2D have been created respectively. Following the change, the reservation quantum for Vokkaligas and others in the group went up from 4% to 6% and for Veerashaiva-Lingayats and others in the group, from 5% to 7%.

Earlier, the two communities were under 3A and 3B respectively, which stand scrapped.

The Cabinet also recommended internal reservation among the 101 SCs, a long pending demand of the SC (left) faction to the Union Government. Of the 17% reservation given to SCs in Karnataka, it has sliced up 6% to SC (left), 5.5% to SC (right), 4.5 % to SC (touchable) and 1% to SC (others).

While the basis for internal reservation was the recommendation of the A. J. Sadashiva Commission report of 2012 when reservation to SCs was pegged at 15%, the Government has adjusted the share, based on a Cabinet sub-committee report, as per the new reservation quota that has been hiked to 17%.

Redistributing: Banjara community members protest against the State's decision to give internal reservation for SCs in Shivamogga on March 27. PTI

How are Muslims losing out?

The BJP, which does not count Muslims among its voter base, has scrapped the reservation for Muslims, arguing that backward classes reservation is not based on religion.

Since 1995, the community has been given 4% reservation under Category 2B on grounds of being socially and educationally backward. Since the community has now lost its social and educational backwardness reservation status, it can claim reservation under the 10% quota for Economically Weaker Sections. This change has to be approved by the Centre.

However, Christians, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists and converted Christians continue to remain in the backward classes category.

Also, nomadic Muslims in Category 1 continue to remain there.

Why was such a decision made?

The BJP, which draws strength from the numerically-strong Panchamasalis, a sub-sect among Veerashaiva-Lingayats, was under pressure as the community led by Kudalasangama Seer Sri Jayamruthyunjaya Swami has been agitating for two years seeking 2A status in the OBC list for the community. As far as Vokkaligas are concerned, the decision came much before they mounted any serious pressure on the BJP who is struggling to break into the Old Mysore region, which is the Vokkaliga heartland.

What is the likely political fallout?

While the BJP leaders argue that the OBC reservation quota cannot be extended based on religion, experts argue that Muslims were included based on the recommendations by the L.G. Havanur and Chinnappa Reddy Commissions constituted earlier. The Sachar Committee report also recommends the same. Legally, it is pointed out that any addition or deletion of a community from the reservation matrix should be based on an empirical study by the Karnataka Backward Classes Commission. No study was undertaken to exclude Muslims nor was the commission's final report submitted to argue for enhancement of reservation for Vokkaligas and Veerashaiava-Lingayats. In fact, the Commission has not even started work on the Vokkaliga demand.

However, the splitting of the Muslim reservation equally among Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats does not meet the demands of the two communities. While Vokkaligas had demanded 12% reservation based on population, the Panchamsalis had demanded 2A status that has a 15% quota. Now Panchamsalis will have to continue their fight for their share with other relatively well off and educated Veerashaiva-Lingayat sub-sects in the new category. Political pundits say it is too early to judge how these decisions will pan out in the electoral arena.

THE GIST

- The BJP government in Karnatake has done away with the nearly three-decade-old 4% reservation for Muslims in the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and distributed it equally among the Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities.
- The Cabinet also recommended internal reservation among the 101 SCs, a long pending demand of the SC (left) faction to the Union Government. Of the 17% reservation to SCs in Karnataka, it has sliced up 6% to SC (left), 5.5% to SC (right), 4.5 % to SC (touchables) and 1% to SC (others).
- The BJP, which does not count Muslims among its voter base, has scrapped the reservation for Muslims, arguing that backward classes reservation is not based on religion.

What does Muslim personal law say on inheritance?

Why did a Muslim couple from Kerala decide to get married again under the Special Marriage Act? What are the options for a family with respect to property rights under Islamic law if they only have daughters?

Ziya Us Salam

The story so far:

A Muslim couple from Kerala, advocate C. Shukkur and his wife Sheena, former Pro Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi University, recently decided to get their marriage registered under the Special Marriage Act (SMA), almost 30 years after having solemnised their nikaah according to Islamic principles. Mr. Shukkur claimed to have got the marriage registered under SMA, so that principles of the secular Act could apply to matters of inheritance in his family, and enable his daughters to inherit the couple's property under the Indian Succession Act, 1925. The couple has three daughters and no sons.

What does Islamic law say?

This decision has put the spotlight on Islamic principles of inheritance. The Koran, through Surah Nisa clearly outlines the principles of inheritance for both direct and indirect heirs. Verse 7 states, "For men there is a share in what their parents and close relatives leave, and for women there is a share in what their parents and close relatives leave – whether it is little or much. These are obligatory shares."

According to unanimously agreed rules on the division of property in Islam, a daughter gets half the share of the son. So if a son inherits a plot of 100 metres from the father, the daughter gets a plot of 50 metres or half the value of the 100-metre plot. On marriage, according to Islam, it is the man who is supposed to bear the family expenses, including residence, food, clothing and medicine besides maintenance of his wife, education of his children and looking after his parents. If the husband predeceases his wife, she gets a one-eighth share of his property, if the couple has children. Otherwise, she gets one-fourth. There is also a share for paternal uncles, aunts, etc, as long as they are blood relatives. Same for grandparents if they are alive. Each parent gets one-sixth if the son passes away before them, and leaves children behind. The problem, as in the case of the Kerala couple arises, when a couple has only a daughter or daughters. The daughters can inherit only two-thirds of father's property, as the holy book says, "If you leave only two or more females, their share is two-thirds of the estate." Beyond that, the shares are for the mother and for paternal blood relatives.

What are the various options?

Within Islamic law, options are available to such a couple in case they want the property to remain within the family. The first option is to make a will or vasiyat under which a person can declare that upon his death, a particular heir shall inherit not more than one-third of the property. This is often done in case one of the children is not financially sound, or has special needs, or has served his or her parents more than other children. For instance, if two children stay abroad and one child stays back with parents to look after them in old age, such a provision may be used. Many Muslim families used this provision during the Partition when many families were divided. While some children crossed over to Pakistan, others remained here with their parents.

Besides vasiyat, there is also the concept of virasat. Under virasat or inheritance, there is the option of hiba which allows unrestricted transfer of wealth or property to a person during the lifetime of the donor. In the case of the Kerala couple, hiba provisions could have been used to transfer all the property in the name of the daughters during the lifetime of the parents. This is like a gift deed. Importantly, while the Islamic division of property clauses for relatives comes into force once a person dies, a gift deed can be made during one's lifetime. The jury is out whether the Kerala couple's actions went against the tenets of Islam or arose from parents' anxiety to secure the future of their children.

THE GIST

- A Muslim couple from Kerala recently decided to get their marriage registered under the Special Marriage Act. This is to ensure that the principles of the secular Act could apply to matters of inheritance in their family.
- According to Islam, a daughter gets half the share of the son. So if a son inherits a plot of 100 metres from the father, the daughter gets a plot of 50 metres or half the value of the 100-metre plot.
- Within Islamic law, options are available to such a couple in case they want the property to remain within the family. One such option is virasat where one can use the option of hiba which allows unrestricted transfer of wealth or property to a person during the lifetime of the donor.

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Officials directed to take action against those disfiguring public places with posters and flexes

BBMP Chief Commissioner directs officials to book cases against those found creating public nuisance under Section 254 of the BBMP Act; he says special teams will be formed to remove illegal posters, hoardings, and buntings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the election heat rises, incidents of political parties disfiguring public places by putting up banners and flexes are also on the rise in the city. Those erecting banners and flexes on poles of flyovers and roadsides are also risking the lives of motorists.

To initiate action against disfiguring public places, the BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath, who is also the Bengaluru City District Election Officer, has issued a circular asking the Zonal Commissioners to take action against defacement of public places and illegal banners and posters.

According to the circular, the Chief Commissioner has directed the officials to book a case against those found creating public nuisance under Section 254 of the BBMP Act. Tushar Giri Nath also said special teams will be formed to remove illegal posters, hoardings, banners, and buntings, apart from penalising offenders.

Zonal commissioners have been told to take action against people putting up illegal posters. FILE PHOTO

Karnataka Votes 2023

Poll icons announced

The BBMP, on Tuesday, March 28, announced five poll icons for the city to motivate the public to get enrolled and come out to vote in the elections. The 'Namma Bengaluru icons' are Olympian shuttler Anup Sridhar, Indian para-swimmer Sharath Gayakwad, folk singer Mohan Kumar N, Kannada actor H. Anand popularly known as Master Anand and Arjuna awardee kabaddi player V. Tejaswini Bai.

"This poll icons will create awareness on the elections and importance of voting. The general public can get all the details about the polling station and other details 10 days prior to the election day or else the people can also find voter roll information on the VHA (Voter Helpline App)," said Tushar Giri Nath, adding that people have to vote in elections; if they are not happy to vote at least there is an option NOTA which they can use.

Congress supporters have pasted posters on a BJP banner as part of their 'flower campaign' against the State government's Budget and policies. FILE PHOTO

Speaking at the event held at Town Hall, C.H. Pratap Reddy, Commissioner of Police of Bengaluru City, said "Bengaluru city is growing fast, however the voter turnout is not improving. This election we need to see more voter turnout and we have to create more awareness about it," he said

Getting prepared

The civic body has recently called tenders for the election materials including CCTV camera, video cameras, vehicles, printing materials, catering services and checkposts to Static Surveillance Team (SST) across the city.

Additional district electoral officers (ADEOs) from the four electoral districts North, South, Central and Urban have floated tenders.

A BBMP official said that the preparations have already started for elections since anytime the Election Commission may announce the election date and Model Code of Conduct.

With a network of 171 checkposts, EC to keep an eye on poll irregularities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission (EC), which has begun tracking movement and distribution of goods and monetary transactions to ensure inducement-free elections, has set up a network of 171 checkposts in border areas.

The election schedule is likely to be announced soon and the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) will come into force thereafter. With political functionaries across parties enticing voters with freebies, the EC is keeping an eye on election irregularities across Karnataka.

To monitor movement of goods and other materials including narcotics, the EC has set up 171 checkposts in the border areas of six neighbouring States that are adjoining 19 districts in Karnataka. EC officials said the number of these checkposts are likely to be increased based on requirement after the MCC comes into effect. All district Deputy Commissioners have been directed to set up surveillance cameras with webcasting facilities at these checkposts.

Acknowledging that a major concern in Karnataka is the use of money power, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, during review of preparations in the first week of March in Karnataka, had said that although the EC was prepared in terms of physical infrastructure, the State agencies were lagging behind in regulating the distribution of freebies.

Following the ECI's directions, the inter-State checkposts have been set up along the National Highways and State highways entering Karnataka from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Maharashtra and Goa where vehicular movement and suspicious arrivals and departures can be tracked.

EC officials said Karnataka's Chief Secretary and the CEO have sought the cooperation of police and other enforcement agencies from neighboring States.

Multiple enforcement agencies such as State police, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Excise, Income Tax, Central Board Of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Indian Coast Guard and Enforcement Directorate apart from Airport Authority of India and Reserve Bank of India have been involved.

Surveillance system

Districts	Number of inter-State checkposts	Bordering States
Bengaluru Rural	1	Tamil Nadu
Bengaluru City	5	Tamil Nadu
Ballari	11	Andhra Pradesh
Belagavi	24	Goa, Maharashtra
Bidar	24	Maharashtra, Telangana
Chamarajanagar	11	Tamil Nadu, Kerala
Chickballapur	10	Andhra Pradesh
Chitradurga	8	Andhra Pradesh
Dakshina Kannada	9	Kerala
Kalaburagi	16	Maharashtra, Telangana
Kodagu	3	Kerala
Kolar	17	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu
Mysuru	1	Kerala
Raichur	6	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana
Tumakuru	5	Andhra Pradesh
Uttara Kannada	3	Goa
Vijayapura	11	Maharashtra
Yadagir	3	Telangana
Ramanagara	3	Tamil Nadu

All Deputy Commissioners have been directed to set up surveillance cameras with webcasting facilities at all mentioned checkposts across Karnataka to ensure round-the-clock monitoring

Kannada drama at Ranga Shankara today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Antharanga, an Ameteur Theatre Troupe will present its new play 'Wedding Ring' on Wednesday.

The play is written by Abhishek Iyengar and directed by Archana Shyam.

It will be staged at Ranga Shankara, 36/2, 8th Cross, J.P. Nagar II Phase, from 7.30 p.m.

Properties worth ₹114.19 crore of defaulters of Raghavendra cooperative bank attached

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), on Monday, provisionally attached properties worth ₹114.19 crore pertaining to various defaulter borrowers of Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, in connection with misappropriation of public deposits to the tune of more than ₹800 crore.

The attached assets are in the form of 21 immovable properties consisting of vacant lands, residential houses, commercial and industrial buildings and bank balance of ₹3.15 crore.

Earlier, the ED had attached movable and immovable properties belonging to the accused valued at ₹45.33 crore and the same was confirmed by the competent authority. The ED has also arrested four persons in the case including the then president of the bank. The ED initiated an investigation under PMLA two years ago based on the FIR registered under various sections of IPC and also under the Karnataka Protection of Interest Depositors in Financial Establishments Act.

The complaint was filed by borrowers of the bank with the Basavanagudi police station.

Revelation

Investigation revealed that the defaulter borrowers, in connivance with the management and employees of the bank, took huge sums of loans from the bank on the basis of bogus deposits and fake fixed deposits to siphon off the money deposited by the public with the bank.

The bank promised to give a higher interest rate to the depositors, which was not in the line with the prevailing market rate.

Most of the depositors of the bank are senior citizens who have deposited their retirement benefits with the bank to secure their financial security..

According to an official release, the borrowers who have taken the loans without giving adequate security did not repay the same, and the loans became overdue.

The bank management created fictitious loan accounts and transferred the money to these accounts, which in turn was transferred to overdue loan accounts for "evergreening" purposes to show the strong financial health of the bank to lure more depositors. Further investigation is under progress.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 29	
RISE 06:18	SET 18:31
RISE 12:13	SET 00:43
THURSDAY, MAR. 30	
RISE 06:17	SET 18:31
RISE 13:05	SET 01:35
FRIDAY, MAR. 31	
RISE 06:17	SET 18:31
RISE 13:57	SET 02:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	36	23
Bengaluru	35	22

Bengaluru Today
35°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will remain pleasant. Spell of thunderstorm with gusty winds may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will remain pleasant. Spell of thunderstorm with gusty winds may occur.

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Woman smuggling drugs used children to avoid police scrutiny

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kalasipalya police arrested a 29-year-old woman carrying 26 kilograms of marijuana (cannabis) packed in three travel bags.

The accused person, Nagma, is a resident of J.J. Nagar. She was arrested while waiting at the Corporation Circle bus stop allegedly to deliver the consignment to her customers.

The police noticed that Nagma was nervous. On checking her bags, they found the drugs worth ₹13 lakh.

Drug trade

Inquiries revealed that Nagma's husband Syed Asghar was arrested by J.J. Nagar police a month ago on a similar charge. During a meeting with her husband in jail, he allegedly gave her guidance about the drug trade.

As per instructions from her husband, Nagma sourced drugs from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. She went with her minor children to collect the consignment. Police learnt that she stayed in a lodge for a day, packed drugs in three travel bags and took a bus to reach Bengaluru. She allegedly took her children along to avoid scrutiny by the police, police said.

Efforts on

Nagma has been booked under NDPS Act and remanded to judicial custody while efforts are on to track down her source in Visakhapatnam.

THE HINDU
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Time: 10.00 am to 9.00 pm

KHADI VIKAS YOJANA
Components of Khadi Vikas Yojana: 1. Modified Market Development Assistance (MMDA). 2. Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate scheme (ISEC). 3. Work-shed Scheme for Khadi artisans. 4. Strengthening of the infrastructure of existing weak Khadi institutions and assistance for marketing infrastructure. 5. Centre of Excellence for Khadi. 6. Khadi Quality Assurance 7. Marketing Promotion (Exhibitions). 8. Science & Technology (S&T)Scheme

GRAMODYOG VIKAS YOJANA (GVY)
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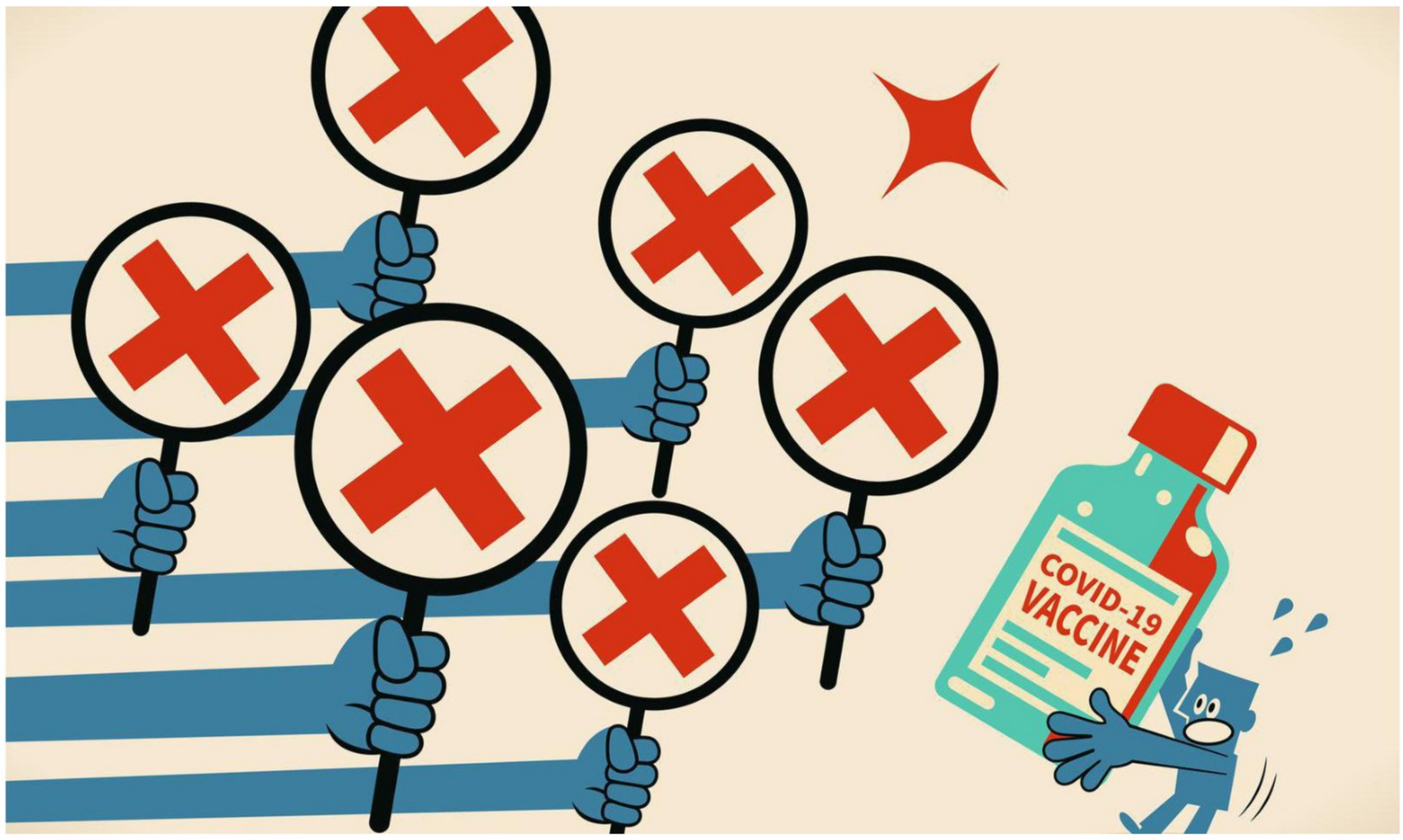
ABSTRACT



GETTY IMAGES

A look into the history and expansion of the anti-vaccine movement in the U.S.

In recent years, the anti-vax movement has grown stronger and larger. The campaign has contributed to the poor levels of uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations worldwide. There is a growing need to comprehend the implications of the recent evolution of anti-vaccine activism

Ramya Kannan

Richard M. Carpiano, Timothy Callaghan et al, 'Confronting the evolution and expansion of anti-vaccine activism in the USA in the COVID-19 era', The Lancet, Volume 401, Issue 10380, March 18, 2023
doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(23)00136-8

Vaccine hesitancy is probably as old as vaccines itself. People have, through the years, distrusted vaccines, for various reasons, even as the results in terms of health outcomes were obvious. In recent years, with high decibel social media amplification, the movement has grown stronger than the few stragglers here and there of the past. Post pandemic, the anti-vax campaign has been reflected in the poor levels of uptake of COVID vaccinations, even when they were available free of cost, as in India. The authors look at the entire history of the vaccination movement in the U.S., paring it down to the specifics of post pandemic hesitancy and disbelief. However, the resonance of the movement is in every nation in the world that is struggling to up the ante and increase vaccination coverage.

A look at the past

Vaccines are the tools by which nations can achieve protection from mortality and morbidity from serious, life threatening infections for their people. The invention of the small pox vaccine in 1796 began the era of vaccinations and over the years, the technologies and processes involved in developing vaccines have grown smarter and advanced, allowing for a fast tracking previously unthinkable in medicine. Parallelly, vaccine hesitancy also grew seeing a milestone when Wakefield's article in *The Lancet*, which was later withdrawn, drew a link between autism and the vaccine against rubella, mumps and measles.

While acknowledging the leap in geometric progression post pandemic, the authors trace that in the years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-vaccine activism became more visible in the U.S., mainly through three distinct developments.

Before the pandemic, anti-vaccine activism was increasingly aligned with conservative political identity. Secondly, the paper notes, anti vaxxers organised themselves into proper groups and networks that lobbied state legislatures and promoted conservative political candidates with anti-vaccine positions. The leveraging of social media, including using common naming conventions, branding and cross promotions, to spread their ideas started even before the pandemic. Harassment and threats to health-care and public health professionals began on social media, in the form of attacks and troll bots.

When COVID-19 struck

The authors pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the evolution of the lobby and magnified the reach of vaccine misinformation. "Anti-vaccine activists, who for many years spoke primarily to niche communities hesitant about childhood vaccinations, have used traditional and social media to amplify vaccine-related mistruths about COVID-19 vaccines while also targeting historically marginalised racial and ethnic communities."

The start of the COVID-19 vaccine trials and its rather unprecedented wide media coverage seemed to provide opportunities for anti-vaccine activists to discredit the vaccine development and evaluation process, particularly since it was fast tracked considering the urgency of the pandemic. "As the national roll-out of vaccinations began, they highlighted stories of purported side-effects (and conspiracy theories) and worked to undermine public confidence in vaccine safety and efficacy among a broader public audience who were searching for information about whether to vaccinate," the authors note.

"Notably, the activists treated the identification of adverse effects (such as myocarditis) by scientific authorities as more evidence of conspiracy rather than a demonstration of how vaccine safety systems operate." It also helped that their messages seemed to resonate with the President at the helm of the U.S. during the pandemic, Donald Trump.

All these efforts contributed to COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and expanded the movement, with early indications suggesting that this hesitancy could now also be extended towards other vaccines.

Strategies and recommendations

The authors recommend immediate action to counter these dynamics and respond to the anti-vaccine movement. "Fundamentally, the public health, scientific, and policy communities must recognise that anti-vaccine campaigns are networked." Despite not being a unit formally, and operating as independent entities, they are deeply networked and with evangelical zeal come together to amplify and propagandise any information that is anti-vaccine in nature. Though the health network is more formal, its engagement with social media, or funding status may not allow it to be a formidable opposing force.

Therefore, the authors suggest three strategies to combat this in the U.S. Firstly, they call to develop networked communities capable of reaching the public at the right time, at the right place, and with the right messenger about vaccine-related information – especially to pre-empt and pre-bunk well-funded and amplified messages disseminated by the anti-vaccine movement. Secondly, interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaborations are essential for developing effective responses. Finally, these networked and coordinated communities should be leveraged to counter relevant trends in anti-vaccine efforts, including separating narratives about liberty from anti-vaccine attitudes and mitigating anti-vaccine activist harassment of public health communicators.

The paper indicates the importance of the need to comprehend the implications of this 'recent evolution of anti-vaccine activism on vaccination uptake and the promotion of sound public health strategies.'

It highlights an urgent issue in health care globally, one that nations will do well to intercept before it grows any further.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day in 1974, a collection of terracotta sculptures known as the Terracotta Army was discovered in China. Here is a quiz on these sculptures

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
The Terracotta structures depict the armies of which Chinese emperor? This emperor is also known for another milestone in China. What is it?

QUESTION 2
This type of art is known by what name? It was buried with the emperor in 210–209 BCE for what purpose?

QUESTION 3
This is situated underneath a 76-meter-tall tomb mound shaped like a truncated pyramid. It became a UNESCO World Heritage Site later. Located in Lintong District, Xi'an, Shaanxi province of China, it was constructed over 38 years, from 246 to 208 BCE. What is it called?

QUESTION 4
In 1986, art historian German Hafner first speculated on a possible Hellenistic link to these sculptures due to the unusual display of naturalism. What is this Hellenistic period?

QUESTION 5
The Terracotta Army has been described as the only other set of historic artifacts that can draw a crowd by the name alone. What is the other one?

Visual question:
These are warrior figures created by French artist Prune Nourry in 2013 in the style of the Terracotta Army. These statues spread the message of equality. What are these figures called? What message of equality do these figures try to spread?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The label given to the class of bodies like Pallas. **Ans: Asteroid**
2. The body Heinrich Olbers was looking for when he discovered 2 Pallas by accident. **Ans: Ceres**
3. The discovery and naming of Pallas was carried over to this new chemical element. **Ans: Palladium**
4. This protoplanet's orbit lies inside the orbit of Neptune. **Ans: 4 Vesta**
5. 3200 Phaethon is the parent body of this meteor shower that occurs in the first half of December. **Ans: Geminid meteor shower**
Visual: In Greek mythology, X and Pallas fought and the former killed Pallas. Identify X. **Ans: Athena**
Early Birds: K. N. Viswanathan| Harris Tom

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

"Mr. K. D. Sethna, rue Francois Martin, Pondicherry, writes: "As the question of the right pronunciation of 'iron' has come up a second time in *The Hindu*, may I qualify your assertion that in dictionaries published in Britain 'iron' rhymes with 'lion'? My Concise Oxford Dictionary (1964), p. 643, col. 1, gives the pronunciation as "I' ern".... I have gathered that in words with a final "r"– consonant, the consonant is silent if the next word begins with a consonant, but is vocalised if that word begins with a vowel. May I know your opinion?"

"Sir, if you refer to the Pronunciation Guide in the dictionary, you'd notice that 'er' is pronounced like the 'er' in 'taker'. That is like the 'a' in 'China'. The 'r' is not pronounced. What you say about 'r' at the end of a word is true. It is not pronounced except when it is followed by a word beginning with a vowel sound in the same sentence. For example:

This flower is beautiful. The final 'r' in 'flower' is pronounced as it is followed by a word ('is') beginning with a vowel. The flower he brought has faded. In this sentence, the final 'r' in 'flower' is followed by word (he) beginning with a consonant and hence is not pronounced. This is the general rule. Here are two more examples: As a matter of fact, he is my relative. The final 'r' in 'matter' is pronounced as it is followed by a word beginning with a vowel. The matter was discussed yesterday. The final 'r' in 'matter' is not pronounced in this sentence as the 'r' is followed by a word beginning with a consonant."

"Mr. Yadati Satyanarayana, Adimurthynagar, Anantapur, wants to know how to pronounce (a) of; (b) off."

"The 'o' in 'of' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'; 'f' is pronounced 'v' as in 'van'. This is the way 'of' is generally pronounced. The rare occasions when it is stressed, the 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'cot' and 'got' and 'f' is pronounced like the 'v' in 'van'. The 'o' in 'off' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'cot' and 'got'; it is also pronounced like the second sound in 'saw', 'paw', and 'law', 'ff' is pronounced 'f'."

"Mr. P. V. Srinivasan, retired Scientist, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'Amen' and 'by hook or crook'."

"Amen is a word generally used at the end of a Christian prayer. It means 'May it be so'. 'By hook or crook' means 'by any means', 'by fair means or foul'. During the middle ages, no one in Britain was allowed to cut down any tree. Permission was given only to cut any dead branches. People collected all the dead wood that could be reached by a shepherd's crook or be cut with a bill-hook. A bill-hook is 'a long-handled tool with a curved blade used for cutting off branches of trees'. A crook is 'a stick or staff with a rounded hook at one end'."

"Mr. Gregory Peries wants to know the difference between 'hotel' and 'a motel'."

"'Motel is a hotel intended mainly for motorists. 'Motel' is the result of the combination of the word 'motor'+ 'hotel'. It contains the first part of 'motor' and the last part of 'hotel'. Such words are called portmanteau words. In English, 'hotel' generally refers to a place where 'meals and rooms are provided for travellers'.

Published in The Hindu on June 16, 1987

Word of the day

Sibilant:
a consonant characterised by a hissing sound (like s or sh); of speech sounds produced by forcing air through a constricted passage

Synonyms: spirant, strident, fricative, continuant

Usage: *After the confrontation, the room was filled with sibilant whispering.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/sibilantpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈsɪb.ɪ.lənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

WEDNESDAY
March 29, 2023

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Announcing Appscale Academy's class of 2023, with 100 app startups that are innovating for unique user needs across agriculture, education, health, social and much more.

J BG-BGE

SBI donates ₹48 lakh to Garden City University

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Bank of India (SBI), under its CSR activity, in association with NGO That's Eco Foundation, on Tuesday donated ₹48 lakh to Garden City University, Bengaluru, for plantation of 32,000 tree saplings.

According to a SBI release, the MoU was signed between SBI, Garden City University and NGO That's Eco Foundation for the above project.

The MOU was signed between SBI, Garden City University and NGO That's Eco Foundation for the above project. The event was graced by Vice Chancellor of Garden City University Prof. G.R. Naik, CEO Lt Gen. Ramesh Halgali, Garden City University, Dr. Lakshmikath H.M., Vice President, Garden City Foundation and CGM of SBI, Nand Kishore and others.

Schoolgirl wins gold medal

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A sixth standard student of Vishwa Vidyapeeth, Aditi Simha, won gold medal in the Bhagavad Gita memorisation competition, at the 60th National All India Sanskrit Competition.

APPOINTMENT

International Institute for Population Sciences
(Deemed to be University)
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai - 400088.

ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION NO. IIPS/ADMIN (T&NT)/03/2023

The Institute invites applications for the following Teaching and Non-Teaching Posts:

Sr. No.	Name of the Post, Category & Number	Group	Pay as per 7 CPC	Department
1	Associate Professor (UR-01)	A	Level 13A	Department of Bio-statistics & Epidemiology
2	Assistant Professor (UR-01)	A	Level 10	Department of Bio-statistics & Epidemiology
3	Upper Division Clerk (OBC-1)	C	Level 4	

Application Form, Recruitment Criteria, General Conditions etc., are available on Institute's website **www.iipsindia.ac.in**. The last date for receipt of the application is **May 12, 2023**.

CAO-CUM-REGISTRAR

APPOINTMENT

SAGARMALA | G20 | Government of India

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
General Administration Department

No.GAD-EST10ESTC(EST)/6/2023-GADSrDS (4300) Date: 29.03.2023

V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways invites applications for the followings:-

1. Advertisement for filling up of one (01) post of Chief Medical Officer by Direct Recruitment, in V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for filling up of one (01) post of Chief Medical Officer (Class –I) (Head of Department) in the scale of pay of Rs. 100000-260000 by Direct Recruitment.

For, details regarding experience, educational qualifications, etc., visit VOC Port's website at www.vocport.gov.in (careers). Last date for the receipt of application is 29.05.2023.

2. Advertisement for Engagement of Professional Functionaries in various discipline/fields in V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority on contractual basis

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for engagement of the following Professional Functionaries in various position / fields on Contractual basis:

Sl. No.	Name of the Position	No. of Positions	Consolidated monthly remuneration
1.	Chief Manager	5	Rs. 1,00,000/-
2.	Senior Manager	6	Rs. 80,000/-
3.	Manager	4	Rs. 60,000/-

For position wise details regarding experience, educational qualifications, etc., visit VOC Port's website at www.vocport.gov.in (careers). Last date for the receipt of application is 27.04.2023. Appointment will be on contractual basis and will not be made permanent in the Port.

SECRETARY
V.O. CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY

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Phones: 94910 73317 & 18, City Centre: 0863-2232505; E-mail: rvrjcce1985@gmail.com

WANTED FACULTY

Applications are invited for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor in Computer Courses **(CSE, CSB, CSD, CSM, CSO, IT)** and Assistant Professors in **Mathematics and MBA.**

Programmers: Candidates with coding skills can apply. PG degree (M.Tech./MCA) holders will be preferred.

Application / Resume shall be mailed to: **rvrjcce1985@gmail.com** only along with scanned copies of educational certificates and latest passport size photo, on or before **12-04-2023.** High pay will be considered for deserving candidates.

Guntur, Sd/-
Date: 28.03.2023 Secretary & Correspondent

File No.NBA/2/1/Admn/22-23

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
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2. Holding post in the Pay Matrix Level-6 or equivalent on regular basis for at least three years- OR
3. Holding post in the Pay Matrix Level-4 or equivalent on regular basis for at least thirteen years and

b. Having experience in the relevant field as well as in the administration.

Last date for receipt of applications: 30 days from the date of publication in Employment News dated 25th - 31st March 2023 (i.e.) 23rd April 2023, 17.30 hrs.
For details, please visit **http://nbaindia.org**

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Ph: 98415 85969.

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The General Public is informed that our clients **Mriganka Purkayastha s/o Bimalendu Purkayastha and Joyita Purkayastha w/o Mriganka Purkayastha** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from **M/s Bren Corporation Pvt Ltd** (hereinafter Developer/seller). The Developer/seller represents and warrant that it is the absolute owner of the schedule property and it has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Developer/seller further represents and warrants that it has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from it no other person/s, includes its successors, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

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Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
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WATER RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, UKP, REHABILITATION DIVN.
No. 4, Bilagi, Camp. Navanagar, Bagalkote

No. : UKP/EE/Reh.Dn.4/PB-2/Tdr-23/2022-23/2354
Date: 27-03-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

As per the tender procedure of KTTP Act, tenders are invited from eligible contractors pertaining to Indent **No. 1097 Rs. 104.99 lakhs,** Indent **No. 1096 Rs. 102.44 lakhs in two cover system** and Indent **No. 1103 amounting 35.21 lakhs in single cover system.** The last date for submission of bid through e-procurement portal is **19-04-2023 up to 17.30 pm.** Tender conditions & other details can be procured in e-procurement portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and from this office in working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
UKP, Reh. Divn. No. 4 Bilagi,
Camp, Navanagar, Bagalkote.

DIPR/Bagalkote/1052/Manipal/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

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ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ) (ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಚುನಾವಣೆ–2023ರ ಸಂಬಂಧ ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಗ್ರಾಫರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಡಿಯೋ ಕ್ಯಾಮರಾದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಬಾಡಿಗೆಗೆ ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮಾಡಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

Schedule of Events: 1) Commencement of download of e-Tender Form from- https//eproc.karnataka.gov.in: 27.03.2023. 2) Pre-bid Meeting: 02.04.2023 at 11:00 a.m. 3) Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: 03.04.2023 till 05:00 p.m. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: 04.04.2023 till 05:30 p.m. 5) Date of Original Document Verification: Will be done on the uploaded documents at e-portal. 6) Opening of Financial Bid: 05.04.2023 to 11:00 a.m. 7) Approximate value of tender: Rs. 09.00 Lakhs (Approx).

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ, ಇ–ಪಾವತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ eproc. karnataka.gov.in ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವುದು. ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08194–222176ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಕುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಪರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.

RO No. 1199: DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2022-23

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)

Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru-560 038, INDIA Ph:080-25191039
e-Mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in
No.BMRCL/O&M/CSW/UG/02/2022-23 Date: 25.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for **"Proposed Roof Sheet Covering for Existing Foot over Bridge Connecting to BMTC Bus Stand from Kempegowda Metro Station of 'D' Entrance".** Estimated Cost: **Rs. 64.46 Lakhs.** Tender Security Amount: **Rs.1,28,936/-.** Sale period of tender documents: **29.03.2023 to 16.04.2023 (till midnight).** Pre-bid meeting: **11.04.2023 at 11.30 hrs.** Date & time for submission of tender: **19.04.2023 (From 11.00 Hrs to 15.00 Hrs).** Date & time for opening of tender**: 19.04.2023 (at 15.30 Hrs).** Cost of tender documents: **Rs.5,900/-.** Completion period: **03 Months.** Tender documents can be downloaded from BMRCL website. For more information visit **http://tender.bmrc.co.in**

Sd/- Executive Director (O&M)

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Manchanabele Project Division, Ramanagara - 562 159
Email-eempdrmgm@gmail.com (080-27271259)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION : 18/2022-23 dt:18-03-2023
(Through e-Procurement Portal only) www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

The CNNL hereby invites Tender for the work through E-Procurement. The last date for tender submission, Opening of single cover Financial Bid & Two cover Technical Bid and Two cover Financial Bid opening as per E-portal for EMD and other details please visit the above website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.P. Division, Ramanagara

SAMAGRA SHIKSHANA-KARNATAKA

New Public Office, Annex Building Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560001. Phone: 080-22483040, 22103092

No: SSK/CAO/ACCOUNTS/36/2022-23 Date: 27.03.2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Only through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka)

Sub: Request For Proposal for Selection of Chartered Accountant's Firms for the Statutory Audit of Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka for the FY 2022-23 through the e-Procurement Portal.

Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka, request for Appointment Chartered Accountant's Firms through e-Procurement portal to conduct Statutory Audit of Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka for the FY 2022-23, from eligible Chartered Accountant firms.

Sl. No.	Places of Audit	Tender Value (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Samagra Shikshana - Karnataka Bangalore and other implementing units throughout State.	Rs.59,00,000.00 (Fifty Nine Lakhs Only) per year including GST	2% of the Tender Value Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-portal

Calender of Events: (1) Date of Publishing in E-procurement portal from: **23.03.2023** (2) Last Date for Submission of Tender on: **21.04.2023 upto 5.00 PM** (3) Pre-Bid meeting: **03.04.2023 at 3.00 PM** (4) Technical Bid Opening: **24.04.2023 at 11.00 AM** (5) Financial Bid: **29.04.2023 at 11.00 AM.**

Details can be obtained from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
State Project Director,
Samagra Shikshana - Karnataka

DIPR/CP/5489/AAA/2022-23

Karnataka Public works Department.

Tumkur Division, Karnataka Telephone: 0816-2272479,
No;EE/KPWD/Tmk/JE.3/T.No.96/2022-23 Dt: 27.03.2023

Invitation For Short term Tenders (IFT) KW. 3 & 4
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Government of Karnataka tenders are invited in Two cover system for Class-3 & above Contractors registered in PWD for 05 works under 5054-Appendix-E Works Head of accounts in the jurisidiction of Tumkur Division through e-procurement. The dates are published as below. (Max Amount Put to Tender Rs.164.38 Lakhs, Min Amount Put to Tender Rs.62.05 Lakhs, Max EMD Amt Rs.2,46,600/- Min EMD Amt Rs.1,24,100/-)

1. Last date for tender information equeries: **03.04.2023** : 16.00 2. Last date for submission of tender : **05.04.2023** : 16.00 3. Date of opening the Technical bid. : **06.04.2023** : 16.30 4. Date of opening the Financial bid. : **07.04.2023:** 11.00

Note: Turnover Certificate without UDI Number will not be considered.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD DIVISION, TUMKUR.

DIPR/TUM/1182/KSMCA/2022-23

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the , Executive Engineer,KNNL, Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Division,K.C.D.Circle , Behind Ganapati Temple, Dasanakoppa Main Road , Dharwad-580 001.
E-mail id: eesliddwd@gmail.com **Ph No. 0836-2461218**

No. KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB/4701-Roads/Tender/2022-23/1975 Dt:27-03-2023

SHORT TERM RECALL TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH "e-Procurement" ONLY)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru , Percentage tenders are invited in Single cover system from eligible tenderers by the undersigned, for the work of improvements to **5 No's (Others-3, SC-1, ST-1)** road (Tender amount minimum **Rs.25.25** Lakhs and Maximum **Rs.42.11 Lakhs**) under head of A/c **4701- SCP/TSP** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from **31/03/2023 @ 11.00 a.m.** onwards and the completed e-tendering documents can be submitted up to **11/04/2023 @ 4.00 p.m**. The financial bids will be opened on **12/04/2023 @ 4.30 p.m**.For additional information contact the undersigned during office hours.

Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the e-Procurement portal only. The undersigned reserves the right to postpone, accept, reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- (SURESH.B.HALLI) Executive Engineer,
KNNL, SLI DIVISION ,
DHARWAD

DIPR/DWD/1339/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)

1)No: EE/UTP/PB-3/2022-23/3027, Dt::24-03-2023
2)No: EE/UTP/PB-3/2022-23/3057,3058,3059,3061,3062, 3063 3064, 3065, 3066, 3067, 3068, 3069, 3070Dt::24-03-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal system)

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, fromeligible bidders who satisfies through GO e-procurement platform shall submit the bid as per single cover & Two cover Electronic document system for 14 Work under the head of account 4701 & 2701 for Tender amount varies from Rs:4.15 Lakhs to Rs:423.57 Lakhs under this division for the year 2022-23.

As per notifications of Sl No:1 : (1)The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:24-03-2023 to 31-03-2023.up to 5.00 PM (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before 28-03-2023 up to 4.30 PM (3) financial Bid will be opened On 01-04-2023. At 5.30pm.

As per notifications of Sl No:2 : (1)The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders up to Dt:03-04-2023, 5.00 PM (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before 30-03-2023 & 03-04-2023, 5.00 PM Technical/Financial Bid will be opened On 05-04-2023. At 11.00 AM& 5.35 PM at Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the e-procurement portal/ News Papers.

For details visit our website www.eproc.karnataka. gov.in or contact the undersigned in all working days during the office hours. Phone No. (08373) – 297332

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.

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TENDERS

OIL PALM INDIA LIMITED

Regd. Office:XIV/130, Kottayam South P.O., Kodimatha, Kottayam - 686 013. Phone: 0481 -2566882,2567103, Fax: 0481 -2561 442 Website: www.oilpalmindia.com E-mail: mdopil@yahoo.co.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

OP/PO/ 27-03-2023

E-tenders are invited from interested parties as per terms and conditions for preparation of feasibility study report for the development of existing Palm oil Mill or installation of new Palm oil Mill with Refinery at Yeroor Estate of Oil Palm India Limited, Kerala, India.

Sd/-
Managing Director

Last date for submission of tenders is 13-04-2023
For further details visit www.oilpalmindia.com

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXXI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-40)
O.S NO. 6548/2021
Hg: 07/06/2023

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007 having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And
Mr. Rahul Dherendra Chebbi **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Rahul Dherendra Chebbi, S/o Late D H Chebbi, Aged about 40 Years, R/at 401, F-1, Deccan Nivas Apartment Opposite BCC Layout Bus Stop, Vijaya Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore- 560040

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 19,13,384/- along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XXXXI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-40), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 07/06/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 14th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-61)
O.S. No. 6260/2021

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M **...Plaintiff**
And
Mr. Abhishek Chandra **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Abhishek Chandra, S/o. Rajesh Chandra, Aged about 28 Years, R/at No. 18-19, Ss Stays, 9th Cross, 4th Block, Hennur, HRBR Layout, Kalyannagar near Bus Stop Bengaluru- 560043.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 2,37,579/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-61), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **17/04/2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 15th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
#1, Rajaji Salai, Chennai
MARINE DEPARTMENT

VACANCY NOTICE
Advertisement No. D1/324/2023/ M

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF FOUR (4) PILOTS ON CONTRACT BASIS

Must be an Indian National and shall hold a Certificate of Competency as Master (FG) issued by the Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India (or) an equivalent qualification recognized by the Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India. (and) shall have at least One year experience as Master/ Chief Officer of a foreign going ship after possession of Master (FG) License.

Upper Age Limit : 55 years
Last Date for receipt : 15th April, 2023.
For details visit websites:
www.chennaiport.gov.in

Deputy Conservator.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Mrs. Leela Devi W/o Late Jagdeep Roy R/o C-11/6, Gali No. 07, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092, disowned / debarred his son namely Sunil Kumar Roy and his wife Rani Shweta Roy and his son Vedarth Roy residing at House No. 313, Mahaveer Palms, Kodichikkanahalli, Bangalore, also residing at Villa 38, The Hills QVC, Angatta Village, Nandi Hobli, Chickballapur, Karnataka, from her all movable and immovable properties due to their acts and conduct. If any person deals with them it must be at their own risk, cost and consequences.

Rahul Lal Akhriya (Advocate)
Ch.No. G-610, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LVI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-57)
O. S. NO. 6387/2022

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 And also having branch at MG Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. M D Maswood Ansari **....Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. M D Maswood Ansari, S/o. Md. Jahangir, Aged About 32 Years, R/at No. 52, 3rd Floor, Front Portion, Old Karcharpalya, B Street Shivajinagar, Near Fatma Masjid, Bangalore- 560051.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs.2,21,169/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-57), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 20/04/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 16th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MALA Prakash Siva Prakash, W/O Siva Prakash Subramanyam born on 20.09.1979 residing at 8 Nethaji Road, Shiva Shakthi Nilaya, Kadirenahalli, Bendrenagar, B S K 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560070, have changed my name to Mala Prakash vide affidavit dated 01.03.2023 at Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE OF COIMBATORE
G.W.O.P. No. 33 of 2023
(In the Matter of Custody of Minor R. Ayush)

P. Renukadevi,
D/o. Padmanaban . . . Petitioner
- vs -
T. Premjith, S/o. Thangaraj "SOPANAM" No. 17/452, Behind Kottekadu Church, Chammakkad Kuttur, Thrisur, Kerala - 680 013. . . Respondent

NOTICE

Please take notice that the above petitioner has filed the above petition to declare that the petitioner is the lawful guardian of her son Minor R. Ayush and that the petitioner is entitled to act as the guardian for the welfare of the minor son and the same has been numbered as above and is posted for your appearance either in person nor with your counsel on 10.04.2023 at 10.30 AM in the above said Hon'ble Court. Failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

This notice is issued as per the orders of the Hon'ble Court.

V. Umapathy B.Sc., B.L.,
Advocate,
Coimbatore

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALORE (CCH-61)
O.S. NO. 7003/2022

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore-560025 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative. **...Plaintiff**
And
Mr. Ganesh Halakaie ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
1. Mr. Ganesh Halakaie, S/o. Gundappa Halakaie, Aged About 41 Years, R/at No.15, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Chandra Layout, Bangalore- 560040

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 4,56,340.62/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H.-61),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **18/04/2023** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **07th day** of **March, 2023** at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIRBHAY Prakash Siva Prakash, S/O Siva Prakash Subramanyam born on 20.06.2005 residing at 8 Shiva Shakthi Nilaya, Nethaji Road, Kadirenahalli, Bendrenagar, B S K 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560070, have changed my name to Nirbhay Prakash vide affidavit dated 01.03.2023 at Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE CCH : 21
O.S. No. 25731/2017

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd. ...PLAINTIFF
And
Mr. Kaverappa A.S. ...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Mr. Kaverappa A.S., S/o Veena A.S, Aged about 26 years, Residing at No. 65/2, Hongasandra Main Road, Garebhavipalya, Bangalore- 560068

Whereas, the Plaint is filed by the Plaintiff Bank, against the Defendant seeking Judgment and Decree for recovery of loan amount of Rs. 2,93,022.88 (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Twenty Two and Paise Eighty Eight Only) together with interest at the rate of 21% P.A. from the date of filing of the Suit to till the date of decree.

Hence, the Defendants hereby gave this notice to appear before the Court on **29-05-23** At **11 AM** either personally or through their Counsel to answer to the Plaint failing which, the case will be heard and decided ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this the 17 day of March, 2023.

Bangalore
Date : 15/03/2023

By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court Mayohall Unit Bangalore

Plaintiff Counsel
M.G.C. & Co.,
Advocate and Solicitors, No. 66, 4th Cross, Xavier Layout, Bangalore- 560047

IN THE COURT OF IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. No. 25923/2020

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd. **...Plaintiff**
And
Mr. Chethan G.P. **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

Mr. Chethan G.P., S/o. Mrs. Shobha, Aged about 33 years, Residing at No.115, 1st Floor, 9th Cross, BDS Garden, Geddalahalli, Hennur Main Road, K Narayanapura, Bangalore- 560077

Whereas, the Plaint is filed by the Plaintiff Bank, against the Defendant seeking Judgment and Decree for recovery of loan amount of **Rs. 8,88,097.85/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand and Ninety Seven Paise Eighty Five Only)** together with interest at the rate of 21% P.A. from the date of filing of the Suit to till the date of decree.

Hence the Defendants hereby gave this notice to appear before the court on **29.05.2023** At **11:00 AM** either personally or through their Counsel to answer to the Plaint failing which, the case will be heard and decided ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 17.03.2023

Bangalore
Date:

By order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayohall Unit, Bangalore

Plaintiff Counsel
M.G.C. & Co.,
Advocate and Solicitors, No. 66, 4th Cross, Xavier Layout, Bangalore- 560047

REAL ESTATE

BSNL HOUSING Society premium Residential & Commercial Sites near Blore Intl Airport on 6 Lane NH-207 Rs.1100/- Sft, Open for general public. Call: 9071534000.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE IV ADDITIONAL DISTRICT SESSIONS COURT MADURAI
O.S. No. 107/2022

Ganambal
And 3 others **...Plaintiff**
Vs.
AnithaMuthu,
Door No.302, S.M.P. Colony, Sagar Park Avenue, Tank Ban Road, Birunthavan Nagar, Bangalore 560054.
.... 26th Defendant

NOTICE TO THE 26TH DEFENDANT

The suit for partition in O.S.No.107 of 2022filed by theplaintiff before the Hon'ble IV Additional District Sessions Judge, Madurai. This case posted for appearance of the 26th defendant at about 10-30 AM on 24-04-2023 before the Hon'ble IV Additional District Sessions Judge, Madurai. Failure to enter appearance in person or through counsel will result in the matter being decided exparte.

A.BALAJI, Advocate for Plaintiff
No.5/460, APS Nagar, Podasapatti Village, Thirumogur Post, Near Rajakambeeram, Madurai – 625107.

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIX ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-70)
OS NO. 6443/2022
Hg. 30/05/2023

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore- 560025 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative **...Plaintiff**
And
Mohammed Anas **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendants :
1. Mr. Mohammed Anas S/o. Mohammed Asif Aged About 27 Years, Residing at No.219, 31st A Cross, 28th Main Tilak Nagar, Jayanagar, Bangalore- 560041.
Permanently Residing at :
No. J58, 2nd Floor, Sidde Gowda Street, Doddamavalli, Basavanagudi, Near Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Bangalore- 560041

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 2,62,493.03/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-70), in person or by a pleader, on the day of **30/05/2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this the 20th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-70)
O.S. NO. 846/2022
Hg. 30/05/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and branch office at : 4/10, Mythri Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068, through its authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. **...Plaintiff**
And :
Mr. B Arivu ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
B Arivu, S/o. Balaji, Aged about 36 Years, Residing at 204, 4th Cross, Vinoba Nagar, Avalahalli, Near BDA Park, Bengaluru- 560026.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs. 8,39,375/- along with interest at the rate of 15% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-70), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 30/05/2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 20th day of March, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

TENDERS

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkkavu, Thiruvananthapuram Ph: 2365678, 2365415

e-TENDER NOTICE

No. CAPT397/2023 - M2(MTL) 28.03.2023

E-tenders are invited from reputed paper dealers/suppliers/mills for the supply of following Paper and Ink items .

1. CTP Viostar Plates : 10,000 Nos (e-Tender ID- 2023_CAPT_568251_2)
2. Four color web Offset ink : 3000 Kg (e-Tender ID- 2023_CAPT_568306_2)

For detailed information log to the website: **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** & www.captkerala.com

Sd/-
MD, C-apt

E-AUCTION NOTICE

e- Auction forms are invited for Disposal of Jerks & Jolts Damaged Approx. 10.65 MT Steel Plates Stock Salvage to be sold on PMT Basis and on "As Is Where Is" basis, belonging to **M/s. Neel Metal Products Ltd.,** Plot no. 20 JBM Ogihara Automotive India Ltd. Ramnagara- 562109, Bangalore . Contact: Mr. Ramesh Muni Mob. No: 9611562739.Inspection can be done: Upto 10/04/2023 with prior appointment .Date of E auction 11/04/2023 from 2 PM Onwards.E auction Form with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be submitted latest by 10/04/2023 up to 5 PM at the auctioneer's address OR at seller's address. E-Auction Portal is **www.thesalvagebids.com** , **visit and register yourself.** Form can be obtained from the details given below: For Inquiries please contact: -

Amit Gupta - 91 8510801000
Priyanka Chhachhia - 9306911655
Mamta Sehrawat - 91 7015209970

The Salvage Bids, 273, Tagore Park, Behind Canara Bank, Near Model Town, Delhi - 9

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100
No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/5054SH/MDR/ 2022-23/ 4374 Date: 21.03.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The t**enderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents

(Total: 4 Works)

(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **30.03.2023 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **31.03.2023 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **01.04.2023 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **03.04.2023 @ 16.00.00**

***Sd/-* Executive Engineer**
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/1222/22-23 dt.27.03.2023

Office of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Special Division, Shivamogga
Ph: 08182 - 222942, E-Mail: spdivision@gmail.com

IFT No: 102/2022-23 **Date: 27.03.2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (through e-procurement) 2nd Call

The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Shimoga Special Division, invites tenders as per K.T.P.P act 2000, in standard Bid document K/W-3 (two cover system) Contractors has registered in PWD Department **Class-3** & above can apply under head of account **4059-80-051-0-29-386 Departmental Buildings Appendix-E in Shivamogga Taluk of work Renovation & other Improvements to Government Composite PU college at Ayanuru in Shivamogga Tq, Shivamogga Dist. (Indent No : 168551)** Amount put to Tender is Rs. **81.09** lakhs & EMD amount is Rs. **1.62** Lakhs. Time allowed for completion of work is 06 Months including Monsoon. The tenderers may submit tenders through E-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz., http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).**The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Section-2 (Instructions to tenderers) of document, to qualify for award of the contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal from **27-03-2023 to 05-04-2023** Last date for Receipt of Tender is on **05-04-2023 at 17.00 PM**. The Technical bid will be opened on **06-04-2023** at **05.30** PM onwards and Financial bid will be opened after **10-04-2023** Onwards. If there any changes in publication, it will be publishing through E- Procurement only. For more information may be obtained from the office during working hour.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD, Special Division, Shivamogga.

DIPR/SMG/No.231-03/ZENKAR/2022-23

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
Jalbhavan, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 029. Phone : 080 – 4110 6505
e-mail:cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

No.KWB/CE(B)/AMRUT2.0/2547/2022-23 Dated: 27/03/2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Electronic Procurement portal only)

The following tender is invited (two cover system) through e-Procurement from eligible Agency/Contractors as detailed below:

Name and description of work: (1) Tender for the work of "Improvements of water supply facilities to Kanakapura city under AMRUT-2.0 and DBOT tender schedule (Lumpsum tender without variation) including 5 years of O & M period (including defect liability period 1 year) .

KUWSDB/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT3380

Approximate value of work (Rs. in Crore) (Excluding GST): 5.13 (CAPEX: 4.71 + OPEX: Rs.0.41). EMD: (Rs. in Lakhs) (Including GST): 9.08. Tender Processing fee (Rs.): As per e-procurement portal. Period of completion Including monsoon (months): 09 .

Calendar of Events:- (1) Date and time for commencement of downloading of Document: **28.03.2023 after 11:30 hours. (2)** Date and Time of Pre-bid meeting: **11.04.2023 at 11:30 hours. (3)** Last date and time for submission / uploading of the tender in the e-procurement portal: **26.04.2023 upto 17:30 hours. (4)** Date & Time of Opening of the Technical bids: **29.04.2023 after 11:00 hours.**

For further details, the Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Bangalore, may please be contacted or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or e-Procurement helpdesk 080-46010000/080-68948777, email support: **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
KUWS & D BOARD, BENGALURU

DIPR/CP/RO5506/AAPL/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
Phone No. : 08338/ 273859 E-Mail: eepwdckd@gmail.com

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/8632 DATE: 27/03/2023

Time Extension e-Tender Notification-3

Short term tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7480 Dated 20/02/2023 was called & First time extension is made vide this Office ltr No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/7977 Dated: 10/03/2023, Second time extension is made vide this Office ltr No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/8232 Dated: 15/03/2023 and Now the third time extension is made for the works at Sl.No. 1, 6, 7 & 8, is as below.

Calender of events for the works at Sl No. 1 & 2:

1)Pre-bid meeting date: 31-03-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 01-04-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 03-04-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 05-04-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

Calender of events for the works at Sl No. 3 & 4:

1)Pre-bid meeting date: 01-04-2023 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2)Last date for queries & clarifications : 03-04-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 3)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 06-04-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 4)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 08-04-2023 at 4.30 PM, 5)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System):"after approval of Technical bids"

All other conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikkodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2185/KSMCA/2022-23

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA (ICAI)
Head Office: ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi-110002
Branch Office: TIRUPATI BRANCH OF SIRC OF ICAI
592, Bodhi Enclave, Balaji Colony, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh-517502

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (TENDER NOTICE)

ICAI Invites bids, in prescribed format, from experienced and reputed Architectural firms/Architects for Appointment of Architect for providing comprehensive Architectural and PMC services for its proposed Institutional Building at Plot No.C-19 in Seshachalam Hill View Layout Phase-I, HIG/C, survey No.195/1 of Chennaiahgunta Village Tirumala Nagar Gram Panchayat, Mangalam Group, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

The last date of receipt of duly filled in bids is 13.04.2023, upto 5.00 P.M. The detailed terms and conditions/Tender are available at ICAI's website **www.icai.org/post/icai-eoi- tenders** & **www.icai-SIRC.orgsirc-icai.org**

Date for final submission of Tender: 13.04.2023, 05.00 pm

Date of Opening Tender: 14.04.2023

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara

Short Term Tender notification No: 34/ 2022-23
Dated: 14-03-2023

The Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist. on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for the work **Improvements to road connecting Bukanakere-Pandavapura Road & Malligere village of Pandavapura Taluk**. Any further information or clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
K.R. Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-5, Solid Waste Management, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.

No: BBMP/EE-5/SWM/TEND/03/2022-23/Call-2 Date:28.03.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer-5, Solid Waste Management Division, invites tenders from eligible contractors for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	No. of Toilets	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Construction of SHE Toilets under PPP Model in BBMP Limits, **Package-1A** *(Reserved for SC Category)*	18	3.10
2	Construction of SHE Toilets under PPP Model in BBMP Limits, **Package-1B** *(Reserved for ST Category)*	07	1.20
3	Construction of SHE Toilets under PPP Model in BBMP Limits, **Package-2** *(Reserved for General Category)*	37	7.10
4	Construction of SHE Toilets under PPP Model in BBMP Limits, **Package-3** *(Reserved for General Category)*	38	6.54

1) Availability of RFP Documents from **31.03.2023**, **4.00 p.m. onwards. 2)** Last date for queries submission: **05.04.2023 upto 5.30 p.m. 3)** Pre-bid meeting: **06.04.2023 at 03.30 p.m. 4)** Last date for submission of bid documents**: 13.04.2023 upto 4.00 p.m. 5)** Opening of Technical bids: **15.04.2023 after 4.30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer-5, SWM Division.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

I. No.:CEE/BGKT/TRNS/SEE(O)/AEE-2/28848-56 Date:27.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tender on Electronic mode for the following work on **Total Turnkey basis.**

1) Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-13/22-23/Vadagaon for " Replacement of 1x10 MVA, 110/11kV transformer by 1x20 MVA, 110/11kV transformer at 110kV Vadagaon sub-station without switchgears in Belagavi taluk and district, including supply of equipments / materials, erection, testing and commissioning.**(Tender No.: KPTCL//2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT10518).**

II. No.:CEE/ BGKT/TRNS/SEE (O)/AE-2/28908-16 Date:27.03.2023

1) Bid Enquiry No: 1.KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-19/22-23/ HUNAGUND for "Providing additional 1X20MVA, 110/33kV Transformer at 110kV Hunagund sub-station in Hunagund taluk, Bagalkot district" including supply of equipments / materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning.**(Tender No.: KPTCL//2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT10521).**

2.Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/STN-18/22-23/KIADB VIJAYAPUR for "Replacement of 2X10MVA, 110/11kV transformer by 2X20MVA, 110/11kV Transformer at 110kV KIADB Vijayapur sub-station IN Vijayapur Taluk & District including supply of equipments / materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning.**(Tender No.: KPTCL//2022-23/ SS/WORK_INDENT10520).**

3.Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/LINE-20/22-23/MUDHOL TAP LINE for "Conversion of 110kV SC line to DC line from Mudhol 4 Pole Structure to 110KV Mudhol SS by using 110kV Narrow Based Towers along with 110kV TB at 110kV Mudhol S.S in Mudhol Taluk and Bagalkot District including supply of equipments / materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning. **(Tender No.: KPTCL//2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT10522).**

4.Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TRNS/BGKT/110KV/LINE-21/22-23/ KALADAGI KATARKI LINE for "Construction of 110KV SC line on DC towers with Lynx conductor from 110KV Kaladagi S/s to 110KV Kataraki S/s for a distance of about 5.409 Kms along with construction of 110KV Terminal Bay at Both ends in Bagalkot & Bilagi Taluks in Bagalkot Dist including supply of equipments / materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning.**(Tender No.: KPTCL//2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT10523).**

The tender will be received through e-procurement portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**/on or after **11:00 Hrs IST** of **29.03.2023.** Any other details can be had from the office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elecl.),
Transmission Zone, KPTCL,
110kV Sub-Division, Navanagara, Bagalakote-587103.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
Bidar District, Bidar-585401, Telephone No: 08482-229332, Fax No: 08482-225262
E-Mail: itstaff_dudc_bidar@yahoo.com

No: MUN/Works/Misc/ /2022-23 Dated: 27-03-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Commissioner, Bidar district, Bidar invites tenders from Registered Suppliers/Firms/Agencies for Supply as detailed below:-

Description of work. 1) Providing and supplying of AMCU Machine to the co-operative milk produceres society at various places in Bidar District (INDENT DMA/2022-23/IND15368). **EMD (In Lakhs)-1.64**. 2) Providing and supplying of Fatomatic machines & Weighing Machines to the co-operative milk producers (INDENT DMA/2022-23/IND15369). **EMD (In Lakhs)-0.25.** 3) Providing and supplying of Furnitures to the co-operative milk produceres society at various village (INDENT DMA/2022-23/IND15370). **EMD (In Lakhs)-0.73.** 4) Providing and supplying of Equipments to the co-operative milk produceres society at Bidar Dist (INDENT DMA/2022-23/IND15371). **EMD (In Lakhs)- 0.90.**

Interested Suppliers/Firms/Agencies shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the e-Procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Calendar of Events and other informations are as follows: 1) Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents: 05-04-2023 upto 04.00 PM. 2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): 06-04-2023 at 04.30 PM

Tender conditions and further information can be obtained from the said office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on e procurement portal only.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner
Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/556/MC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Department of Collegiate and Technical Education
NO. 1, Unnatha Shikshana Soudha, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore – 560 001.
Phone: 080 29701510, email: dce.tender2017@gmail.com

No.: DCE/ITS/PUR/12/2023-Computer No.1055109 Date: 28.03.2023

E-Tender Notification

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the following tenders:
The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Tender Schedules are as below

Sl. No.	Tender Name & Number	Date of Floating Tender on e- Procurement Portal	Date and Time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and Time for bidding through eprocurement portal
1.	**Tender No: DCE/2022-23/IND1133** "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Desktops, Laptops, Printers, Photocopiers, UPS and Projectors to Government First Grade Colleges"	27/03/2023	31/03/2023 12.00 PM	11/04/2023 5:30 PM
2.	**Tender No: DCE/2022-23/IND1134** "Supply,Installation and Maintenance of CCTVs to Government First Grade Colleges"	27/03/2023	31/03/2023 11.00 AM	11/04/2023 5:30 PM
3.	**Tender No: DCE/2022-23/IND1135** "Supply,Installation and Maintenance of Science Lab Equipments to Government First Grade Colleges"	27/03/2023	31/03/2023 2.00 PM	11/04/2023 5:30 PM
4.	**Tender No: DCE/2022-23/IND1136** "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Sports and Fitness Equipments to Government First Grade Colleges"	27/03/2023	31/03/2023 3.00 PM	11/04/2023 5:30 PM

Sd/-
Director of Collegiate Education, Bangalore, Karnataka

DIPR/CP/5509/Zen/2022-23

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No. BMICAPA/CLU-02/85/2022-23 Date: 28.03.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961]

Sri.B.V.Srinivasa S/o Late B.H.Venkataswamaiah has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" Zone which land is reserved for Agriculture purpose in approved Master plan under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No:31/6 Extent 01 Acre-33Guntas of Kethiganahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) After the Change of Land Use if this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to middle income group and economically weaker section.
2) At the time of carving and designing the layout there will be different kind of job opportunities to labours.
3) If this land is developed, then the Surrounding area will also get developed economically as well.
4) If the planned development takes place good road, Civic amenity sites, play grounds and Park etc., will be available for general public.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/5517/2022-23

BANGALORE-MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/70/2022-23/2139 Date: 28-03-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri R.S. Ramesh has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** Zone which land is reserved for Agriculture purpose in approved Master plan under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No: 86/1 Extent 03 Acre - 00 Guntas of Honniganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatana Taluk, Ramanagara District. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to middle income Group and Economically weaker section.
2) At the time of carving and designing the Layout, there will be job opportunities to labours.
3) If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4) If the planned development takes place, good road, Civic amenity sites and parks etc.,

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5508/Adverto/2022-23

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI

No: KMP/EE/DB/15th Finance/16/2022-23 date: 28-03-2023

:: E-PROCUREMENT TENDER ::

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 01 tenders as per KTPP act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through e-procurement Portal in KW- 3 Tender bid documents under 2022-23 2022-23 15th Finance Fund for the year 2022-23 scheme. The bid documents can be downloaded from e-portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. 2) Estimate Sanction cost: lowest & Highest amount **Rs. 100.00 lakhs.** 3) EMD Value: Lowest & Highest Rs. 200000.00, 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **05-04-2023 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **06-04-2023 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **10-04-2023 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1611/MC&A/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
District Urban Development Cell, Ramanagara District, Ramanagara
Telephone No : 080-27274108 E-Mail : ka.ramanagara.dudc@gmail.com

No : RDUDC/MUN(1)/Amrutha Nagarothana-4/CR/203/2022-23 Dated : 27.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, DUDC, Ramanagara District, Ramanagara invites tenders from Class-3 and above contractors for Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality) -4 Project works as detailed below :-

Sl. No.	Description of work	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	Stipulated Period
1	Package - 5 (Providing and Installation of LED Street lights for existing pole and new poles from Ward no-1 to 31 in Kanakapura CMC Limits) Nagarothana-4 (Indent No. DMA/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT148028)	47.66	0.96	03 months
2	Package - 3 (Providing new pipe line from Arkavathi bridge to MG Road in Ward No-2 & park main road in ward no. 20 of Kanakapura under Nagarothana Phase - 4 (Indent No. DMA/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT146071)	5.24	1.19	03 months
3	Construction of Vishranthigruva and PHC toilet In Govt. School and Anganawadi Kendra in limits of TMC Magadi under Nagarothana-4 (Municipality) (Indent No. DMA/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT144046)	52.60	1.05	09 months
4	Construction of Ambedkar Bhavana, Bayalu Rangamandhira, Rest house for Pourakarmikas & Toilet block in Bidadi TMC limits under Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality)-4 (Indent No. DMA/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT146075)	126.77	2.00	09 months
5	Package - 4 Construction of Anganavadi Building, Compound Wall, upgradation of Office Building & Construction of Rehabilitation center for handicapped people in Kanakapura CMC Limits Under Amrutha Nagarothana Phase - 4 (Indent No. DMA/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT146072)	130.24	2.00	09 months
6	Construction of Rest House, Anganavadi Buildings and Physically Challenged Friendly Toilets and Ramps in CMC Channapatna City Limits under Nagarothana Phase 04. (Indent No. DMA/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT144785/Call-3)	175.56	2.64	18 months

Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the e-Procurement platform **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically.

Calender of Events and other information's are as follows:

1	**Pre-bid meeting Date**	**: 25-05-2023 at 11:00 AM**
2	**Last Date for uploading of completed tender documents**	**: 29-05-2023 at 05:30 PM**
3	**Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)**	**: 31-05-2023 at 11:00 AM**

Tender conditions and further information can be obtained from the said office during working hours. If any changes in the calendar of events and the conditions will be notified on e-procurement portal only and newspaper advertisement will not be published.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell,
Ramanagara District, Ramanagara

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JEE (Main + Adv) | 06 April '23
NEET (UG) | 06 April '23
Admission Mode : Direct / ASAT / TALLENTEX

Class starting dates for 11th to 12th moving students
ENTHUSIAST COURSE
JEE (Main + Adv) | 06 April '23
NEET (UG) | 06 April '23
Admission Mode : ASAT / Direct

Class starting dates for 12th Pass/Appearing/ Ex-Allen students
LEADER COURSE
JEE (Main + Adv) | 17 April '23
NEET (UG) | 15 May '23
Admission Mode : ASAT / Direct

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PHASE- 2
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Admission Mode : Direct

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INBRIEF

Convict who issued threat to Gadkari taken into custody

The Nagpur police have taken a convict into custody for inquiry over the two threat calls made to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's office from Hindalga jail in Belagavi. According to police sources, the convict, identified as Jayesh Pujari, was taken into custody on Tuesday morning. He was then taken to Nagpur by flight. He has been taken to Nagpur for interrogation in connection with the threat calls and subsequently, will be produced before a local court there, the sources said. Mr. Gadkari's office received a threat call on January 14 from a person who identified himself as Jayesh Pujari and an associate of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

FlyBlade India and Jaunt Air announce partnership

FlyBlade India and Jaunt Air Mobility on Tuesday, announced a strategic partnership to launch electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft operations in India and the subcontinent region by 2027. The partnership includes a non-binding arrangement to procure 150 Jaunt Journey aircraft with an option for another 100 aircraft to meet the projected demand over the next decade. The companies will collaborate in specific areas that are critical to support future short-haul mobility operations.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (March 29, Wednesday), the following explainer is available:

- The quota kerfuffle in Karnataka
bit.ly/muslimreservation

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

It is statues galore as Bommai unveils three more in a day in Belagavi

Ever since PM Narendra Modi unveiled the 108-ft statue of Kempe Gowda at the Bengaluru international airport, there has been a series of statue unveiling in Karnataka ahead of elections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing the spree of unveiling statues of prominent caste and community icons ahead of elections, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday inaugurated the statues of Father of Indian Constitution B.R. Ambedkar, Kittur queen Rani Chennamma and her confidant Sangolli Rayanna who fought the British in front of the West entrance of Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi.

The statue of Kittur Rani Chennamma which was unveiled in front of the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday. BADIGER P.K.

Crown of Karnataka

Ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 108-ft-high statue of Kempe Gowda at the Bengaluru international airport, there has been a series of statue unveilings in Karnataka ahead of elections. Among others, a 108-foot-tall statue of Male Mahadeshwara on M.M. Hills was unveiled and a 65-ft-tall statue of Akkamahadevi at Udutadi in Shikaripur. Union Minister Amit Shah recently unveiled statues of Basaveshwara and Kempe Gowda on the premises of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru. Belagavi earlier saw the unveiling of the statue of Chatrapati Shivaji. Addressing a gathering after unveiling the statues at Belagavi on Monday, Mr. Bommai said that while Belagavi is the crown of Karnataka, the statues of Ambedkar, Rani Chennamma, and Sangolli Rayanna will be the crown of Suvarna Soudha.

The Chief Minister said: "Historically, Belagavi is a prominent city. The bugle of the Indian freedom struggle was first blown by Kittur queen Rani Chennamma. Her confidant Sangolli Rayanna fought for freedom and sacrificed his life."

"During our freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi visited Belagavi, and B.R. Ambedkar visited Chikkodi. In fact, the highest number of freedom fighters are in the Belagavi district, and they played a significant role in the freedom struggle," he said.

Mr. Bommai said that the installation of statues of great personalities will always inspire people. "The objective is also to see that the impact of the life, contribution and sacrifice of these great personalities is cast inside the Suvarna Soudha so that the power centre initiated works that will facilitate the establishment of a welfare state, peace and prosperity."

State opens first detention centre for women foreign nationals

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prior to opening the centre, women involved in alleged offences used to be housed in the State Home for Women and handed over to NGOs

The city police have sent five women immigrants to the first-ever detention centre opened for women foreign nationals who are illegally overstaying in the country by violating visa norms.

The centre has been set up at Dibbur Colony in Tumakuru district.

Among the first batch of women detained at the centre, two are from Bangladesh and one each from Tanzania, Uganda and Iran.

They were detained by Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) officials recently for overstaying and visa violations and under various sections of the Foreigners Act.

Prior to the opening of the centre, women involved in alleged offences used to be housed in the State Home for Women and handed over to NGOs.

Illegal Immigrants

The first detention centre for foreigners staying illegally was opened in Sondekoppa near Nelamangala in 2020, with facilities for 40 inmates.

The first detention centre was opened after the HC pulled up the State government for keeping illegal Sri Lankan immigrants in the Central Prison instead of the designated detention centre.

Increased capacity

Later, at a meeting attended by Home Minister Araga Jnanendra and Social Welfare Minister Kota Sreenivas Poojary, the concerned departments were instructed to increase the capacity of the detention centres to accommodate more inmates.

The police department has been carrying out special drivers to identify illegal immigrants in the State and those overstaying by flouting rules.

As the number of inmates increased, the State Government now contemplated establishing one more detention center in the State.

PSI recruitment scam: Suspended sub-inspector held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A suspended sub-inspector of police, who was allegedly involved in PSI recruitment scam and was on the run for the last 10 months, has been pinned down by CID officials. He was intercepted and arrested while travelling on the Outer Ring Road on Monday evening.

The accused Naveen Prasad, 42, PSI (crime) worked as mediator and facilitated ₹85 lakh transactions from a PSI post aspirant to the prime accused.

He was on the run ever since the scam broke out and a team of officials led by Deputy Superintendent of Police B.K. Shekhar was formed to nab the accused.

Police say since Naveen knew the technique of crime investigations, used to hoodwink the police officials in the nick of time.

The police have also approached the Court, which announced him as the proclaimed offender. A non-bailable warrant was against him and his properties were confiscated.

Police said that Naveen managed to stay away from his family and used to move in a car in neighboring States.

The accused used to operate from different phone numbers. To conceal his identity, he also grew a beard. Based on credible information that the accused is travelling in a Telangana registered car, a team of police intercepted his car on the Outer Ring Road and arrested him.

The accused has been produced before the court and taken into custody for ten days.

Shikaripur violence over internal reservation: Shivamogga police arrest three; four cases registered

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

The Shivamogga police have arrested three persons and registered four cases in connection with the incidents during the protest against the internal reservation among Scheduled Castes in Shikaripur on Monday.

The protest turned violent when a few people threw stones at former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's residence in the town, prompting the police to resort to lathicharge. The police have booked cases against 22 people based on video clips.

Shivamogga SP G.K. Mithun Kumar, on Tuesday, informed the media that four cases had been registered and three had been arrested. Those arrested are Raghavendra Naik, a Congress leader, Kumar Naik, and Punith Naik.

Araga Jnanendra

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra visited Shikaripur along with Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra and police officers and reviewed the situation. Speaking to presspersons, he termed the incidents

The protest turned violent when a few people threw stones at former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's residence

unfortunate and alleged that the protesters were misled and provoked by vested interests.

"They even went so far to throw stones at Mr. Yediyurappa's residence. I have been following Mr. Yediyurappa's career. All through, he has worked for the welfare of the community. Even after his house was attacked, the former CM felt that no one should be arrested," Mr. Jnanendra said. The Minister expressed shock that a few police officials were hurt in the incident. "Three to four officials are seriously hurt. They are under treatment at McGann Hospital in Shivamogga. The police have succeeded in bringing the situation under control immediately," he said.

The protests against the internal reservation among Scheduled Castes that started in Shikaripur on Monday, spread to Shivamogga taluk as well.

Hundreds of protesters gathered on Shivamogga-Shikaripur highway and stopped the vehicles near Kunchenahalli in Shivamogga taluk. Many vehicles were stuck in the traffic. The protesters raised slogans against the BJP government.

The village, where the protest is going on, falls under Shivamogga Rural constituency, reserved for SCs. This constituency is represented by BJP MLA Ashok Naik.

DKS: Attack on BSY's residence result of internal feud in BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday claimed that the stone-pelting incident at the residence and office of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa was a result of an internal feud within the ruling BJP and it was a deliberate attempt to finish Mr. Yediyurappa politically.

Confusion created

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar said: "Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has created confusion regarding the internal reservation to Scheduled Caste... If they pelt stones on the CM's residence, or on people who are in power, that is different."

Conspiracy

"If people are pelting stones on Mr. Yediyurappa's residence, what does it mean? It's an internal conspiracy against Mr. Yediyurappa," added Mr. Shivakumar.

Shivarama Karanth Layout: BDA to provide developed land as compensation to land-losers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Farmers and landowners who are losing their property for the formation of Shivarama Karanth Layout by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) will receive developed land as compensation in their properties notified for the project.

Chairman of the BDA S.R. Vishwanath told the media person on Tuesday, that those who are losing land for the formation of layout have emotional connection with their properties, and so, a decision has been taken to provide compensatory developed land in the same property that they parted with for the formation of the Layout.

A file photo of a part of Shivarama Karanth Layout in Bengaluru.

Mr. Vishwanth said that when he assumed charge in 2020, the BDA had ₹260 crore in its accounts and now, the Authority has ₹1,012 crore. He said that revenue increased due to sale of sites, recovery of encroached properties and other initiatives. In the last two years, the BDA auctioned 3,735 sites and generated revenue of ₹3,553 crore. He further said ₹2,000 crore worth properties of the Authority have been recovered by clearing encroachments.

For speedy disposal of cases pertaining to 11,000 acres that were acquired by the BDA for formation of various layouts in the city, the agency has approached the State Government to facilitate conducting of Lok Adalat. Most of the cases pertaining to demanding more compensation for the land parted by the owners. There are instances of cases pending from 30 to 40 years, said a release.

Government of Karnataka
Revenue Department
Atalji Janasnehi Directorate, Revenue Survey Office Building, K. R. Circle, Bangalore – 560001

No: AJSD/TENDER/ADM-164/2022-23 **Dated: 29.03.2023**

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for **Providing Data Entry Operators for Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural Districts Atalji Janasnehi Centre on Out Source Basis.**

The tender documents and related information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal – **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **29.03.2023 to 03.04.2023**.

Sd/- Director, Atalji Janasnehi Directorate

DIPR/CP/5516/Zen/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Revenue Department
Atalji Janasnehi Directorate, Revenue Survey Office Building, K. R. Circle, Bangalore – 560001

No: AJSD/TENDER/ADM-158/2022-23 **Dated: 29.03.2023**

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from reputed firms for **Providing Data Entry Operators for Chitradurga and Davanagere Districts Atalji Janasnehi Centre on Out Source Basis.**

The tender documents and related information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal – **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **29.03.2023 to 03.04.2023**.

Sd/- Director, Atalji Janasnehi Directorate

DIPR/CP/5518/Zen/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Water Resources Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, UKP, Reh. Divn No-2, Almatti. Tq:Nidgundi, Dist:Vijayapur.
Phone:08426-281049
No:UKP/REH-2/DB/E-Proc/Tender/2022-23/2779 Dated:27.03.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION.
(Through e-Procurement only)(Two Cover System)

In accordance with The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, the Lumpsum (in Rupees) Electronic Tenders through e-Procurement platform in Two cover system through standard Tender documents are invited by the Executive Engineer, UKP, Reh. Division No.2, Almatti on behalf of The Governor of Karnataka State from Registered Consultant, The details of works tendered and dates are shown below. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.eproc.Karnataka.Govt.in and shall be submitted in e-procurement portal.

Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) under Quality and Cost Based Selection system (QCBS) for Development of Road on the upstream side of Basavasagara reservoir Narayanapur (Package-1), Necklace Road around Alamatti Reservoir, upstream side of Basavasagara reservoir Narayanapur (Package-2) **Total No. of works – 03 Nos.**

Amount put to Tender Maximum Rs.318.60 Lakhs & Minimum Rs.138.04 Lakhs, EMD Amount Maximum Rs.5.64 Lakhs & Minimum Rs.2.45 Lakhs.

1) Last date for Tender querries/clarification: **06.04.2023** upto **11.30** A.M. 2) Pre bid meeting on **06.04.2023** at **04.30** P.M. at Executive Engineer, Division-2 Almatti. 3) Last date for blank tender forms and submission of completed tender documents: **15.04.2023** upto **5.00** P.M. 4) Opening of technical bid: **17.04.2023** at **11.30** A.M. 5) Financial bids will be opened after approval of technical bids.

(The Estimate amount put to Tender is exclusive of GST. The tenderer should quote without GST. GST shall be paid separately @ prevailing rates during billing)

For more information contact the Office of the Executive Engineer,UKP.Reh.Divn No.2, Almatti during working hours **on or after 27.03.2023** website www.eproc.Karnataka Govt.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, UKP. Reh. Divn No-2, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/1132/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

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Quota conundrum: Newly carved 2C, 2D categories will not be exclusive to Vokkaligas and Lingayats

'All communities in the earlier 3A, 3B have been moved to 2C and 2D as a separate category is not possible within the existing 32% reservation matrix'

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet's decision to provide Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats 6% and 7% reservation quota in the newly created categories of 2C and 2D will not be exclusive to these communities, contrary to the perception that has been built along the reservation narrative.

The Kodavas and Balijas along with Vokkaligas, who were part of 3A and shared the 4% reservation, have been moved to the newly created 2C, which now has a total of 6% quota. Similarly, Marathas, Christians, Bunts, Jains and Satanis along with Veerashaiva-Lingayats in 3B and shared 5% reservation, have been moved to 2D, which now has 7%.

The earlier demand

In fact, Vokkaligas had demanded 12% reservation exclusive for the community and Panchamasalis had demanded 2A category status where a total of 15% reservation is available.

Panchamasalis, who had agitated for two years, will continue to share their reservation benefit with other Lingayat sub-castes besides other communities in the 2D category.

Those defending the scrapping of 4% reservation to Muslims in 2B and equally distributing it to the Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats have been silent on the other communities being part of the new categories. A source in the Chief Minister's Office also acknowledged that the larger reservation narrative has been lost in the din created around the reservation to two dominant communities.

A senior Minister in the government acknowledged that all the communities in the earlier 3A and 3B have been moved to 2C and 2D respectively, as a separate category or reservation quota is not possible within the existing 32% reservation matrix. "While increase in reservation for SC/ST communities can be justified since census figures are available, increase in OBC reservation matrix cannot be justified in the absence of any data," the Minister said.

The Veerashaiva-Lingayat Mahasabha, whose demand had been to include all sub-castes in the central OBC list, does not see much benefit with the change of categories. Former Congress legislator Ashokanand Kashappanavar, who was actively involved in the Panchamasali movement and left it in disagreement after a fresh reservation quota was announced, said, "We were already in Category 3B and we did not get what we demanded. The changes are not legally tenable. It is unfair to snatch Muslim reservation and Basava Tatva does not allow it."

Change in reservation matrix

Communities that were in Category 3A now moved to 2C

- Vokkaligas, Kodavas, and Balijas

Reservation quota: 6%, including 2% now added from Category 2B for Muslims that has been scrapped

Communities that were in Category 3B now moved to 2D

- Veerashaiava-Lingayats, including Panchamasalis, Jains, Christians, Marathas, Bunts, and Satanis

Reservation quota: 7%, including 2% now added from Category 2B for Muslims that has been scrapped

Internal quota unconstitutional: Congress MLC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress MLC Prakash K. Rathod on Tuesday alleged that the BJP government's decision to implement internal reservation among SCs is "unconstitutional" and urged MP, Ministers, MLAs and MLCs belonging to Banjaras (Lambanis), Bhovi, Korcha, and Korma communities from BJP to resign from their posts.

"The Cabinet decision shows the hidden agenda of the BJP which wants to remove these communities from the SC list," he alleged. The Supreme Court verdict in the EV Chennaiah vs Andhra pradesh government has categorically rejected the internal reservation recommended by the AP government. "Thus the State government is liable for contempt of court legal action," Mr. Rathod claimed.

Rahul Gandhi to address rally in Kolar on April 5

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former AICC president Rahul Gandhi, who was disqualified from the membership of Lok Sabha, will address a mega rally of the Congress on April 5 in Kolar, the place where he made the controversial speech in 2019 that led to a defamation case and his subsequent disqualification.

Rahul Gandhi

Congress sources confirmed on Tuesday that the party would hold a function and Mr. Gandhi would address the public. The Congress has decided to hold the event at the same venue in Kolar and use it to its advantage ahead of the Assembly polls in the State, sources added.

Earlier speech

Seeking votes for Congress candidate K.H. Muniyappa in Kolar at a rally ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, Mr. Gandhi had asked, "I have a question. Why do all of the thieves have 'Modi' in their names? Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi. And if we search a bit more, many more Modis will come out."

Siddaramaiah's demand

Sources also said former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who has been given ticket to contest from Varuna constituency in Mysuru district, has been putting pressure on the party high command to allow him to contest from Kolar also.

Meanwhile, this time, seven-time MP Mr. Muniyappa himself, for the first time, will be contesting elections from the Devanahalli (SC) Reserved constituency on the outskirts of Bengaluru. His daughter Roopakala M. is fielded from Kolar Gold Fields (SC) Reserved constituency.

JD(S) promises to restore Muslim quota, provide incentive to auto drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a slew of poll promises announced by Janata Dal (Secular) on Tuesday, the party promised to provide 50% subsidy on the LPG cylinders and monthly financial incentive of ₹2,000 to autorickshaw drivers, besides scrapping of the BJP government's decision to end 4% reservation for Muslims in the OBC quota.

"The BJP has played out a drama ahead of elections with designs to destroy harmony in society. The JD(S) will stand by the Constitution with respect to the reservation issue. BJP wanted Muslims to take to the streets so that the party can benefit electorally. Why was the decision on the reservation issue taken irresponsibly? I do not support the reservation changes and Muslims should exercise restraint," he told presspersons at the party office in Bengaluru. He announced that the new reservation that is discriminatory and unscientific would be scrapped if JD(S) is voted to power.

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy being greeted with a garland made of capsicums during campaigning in Bengaluru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

During his campaign at Yeshwanthpur here, he announced a 50% subsidy on LPG cylinders.

"The Union government implemented the Ujwala scheme promising free LPG. The women who believed the promise were shocked after the price of LPG was raised and it has crossed ₹1,000. Life of the poor has been affected. We will give five cylinders free and 10 LPG cylinders will be given at 50% cost." Further, he promised to meet the demands of anganwadi workers.

Mr. Kumaraswamy also said that his government, if voted to power, will streamline public appointments and fix problems in the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC). "I will reform the public recruitment agencies. Currently, the BJP government is selling government posts for lakhs and crores," he told reporters in the party office here.

Lokayukta police obtain BJP MLA's custody for five days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the arrest of BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa, the Lokayukta police produced him before the court and obtained his custody for five days to question him in detail.

It is learnt that Madal complained of chest pain while being medically examined on Monday evening, but the doctor overruled the claim and sent him back with the Lokayukta police.

Madal Virupakshappa

Now the Lokayukta police are geared up to question him in detail about the money recovered from his house and also about the bribe money allegedly received by his son Prashant.

Meanwhile another accused, Deepak Jadhav, manager of the firm who arranged the bribe money and sent it through two of his employees to deliver cash to Prashanth, has also obtained anticipatory bail and is to appear before officials for questioning within 10 days. However, with one week over, officials are waiting for three more days following which they will approach the court for cancellation of bail.

CM inaugurates nine new universities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai virtually inaugurated nine new universities on Tuesday. The universities are: Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Kodagu, Haveri, Koppal, Bagalkot, Bidar and integrated universities of Mandya and Raichur. These universities have been set up under the "one district-one university" concept as aspired in National Education Policy (NEP-2020).

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM

"e"-Procurement Notice No. 67 /OCCL/2022-23 (on-line)

On-line tender is invited for the following work on EPC-Turn Key Basis:

Sl No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Crores) (excluding GST)	Bid Security (through on-line transfer / Bank Guarantee) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Construction of Distribution System for 2448 Ha of CCA including Command Area Development (CAD) in 6 Nos. of MIP through UGPL System (Gravity Flow) in Angul, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Mayurbhanj & Keonjhar district of Odisha on EPC-Turn-key basis including Operation & Maintenance of complete commissioned project for 5 (five) years (Package-III)	OCCL-UGPL/MI. Pkg 3/ 2022-23	Rs.62.67 Crores	Rs.62,67,000/-	24 (twenty four) Calendar months	From 31.03.2023, 03.30 PM to 15.05.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 31.03.2023, 03.30 PM to 15.05.2023, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 16.05.2023, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in

MANAGING DIRECTOR

CAD-5319 OIPR-34120/11/0061/2223

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, BELAGAVI DISTRICT, BELAGAVI Telephone no:0831-2407279
E-Mail:dudc_bgm@yahoo.co.in

No: BGM/DUDC/5/CR-25/2021-22 Dated: 28-03-2023

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Develoment Cell, Belagavi District invites tender in two cover system using KW-4 Document for Belagavi District under Chief Minister Amrut Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Project works as detailed below:- **(Rs. in Lakhs)**

Sl. No	Description of works	Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST)	Earnest Money Deposit
1	Construction of Over Head Tank at Ward No.21,22, Supply & Erection of Vertical Pump at Pump house and Supply & Errection of Pipe line from Ugar Ainapur main road to Faridkhanwadi water tank, from Durg Bar to Jatagar Tota Husen Shek house at Ward No.17 Kage Plot & from Vinayak Wadi to Pokale Plot at Ward No.16 in TMC UGARKHURD limits (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT140617/Call-3)	113.65	1.70
2	Construction of Pour Karmikas Rest Room, Public Toilets, Anganwadi, Samuday Bhavan, Compound Wall and Pipeline Works in Town Municipal Council SADALGA limits (Tender No. DMA/2022-23/BD/WORK_INDENT143826)	132.09	1.98
3	Construction of required additional works to 24/7 water supply project, Supply & Erection of Pump set, Raising main, distribution pipeline, construction of Water Storage Tank & Other Works in CMC GOKAK limits. (Tender No. DMA/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT140725)	333.26	5.00

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

Sl.No.01 & 02	Last Date for submission of tenders	:12-04-2023 up to 17.00 hrs.
	Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)	:13-04-2023 at 17.01 hrs.
Sl.No.03	Last Date for submission of tenders	:27-04-2023 up to 17.00 hrs.
	Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)	:28-04-2023 at 17.01 hrs.

Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/-EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Distirct Urban Development Cell, Belagavi

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2181/KSMCA/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that, under the instructions of our client, we are investigating the rights, title, entitlement and interest of Gears and Pinions Private Limited having its registered office at No 494 (Old No 492), Mahadevpura, Bangalore, (CIN: U22100KA1960PTC001398), Universal Carburising Works Private Limited, having its registered office at 61, Whitefield Road, Mahadevpura, Bangalore (CIN: U29130KA1963PTC001481), Ozone Realtors Private Limited, having its registered office at No 51/7-1, Rathna Avenue off, Richmond Road, Civil Station, Bengaluru-560 025 (CIN: U45201KA2008PTC046894), Mr R Shankar (**"Owner"**) and Ozone Elegant Developers Private Limited having its registered office at 2nd floor No 35/1, Yellappa Chetty Layout, Civil Station, Ulsoor Road, Bangalore 560042 (CIN: U45203KA2021PTC143235) (**"Developer"**) to property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (**"Schedule Property"**). We understand that development rights in respect of the Schedule Property have been granted in favour of the Developer and pursuant thereto, the Developer is in the process of developing the project thereon named as Ozone Icon (**"Project"**).

Any person(s) or entity(s) including but not limited to any bank or financial institution having or claiming or asserting to have any demand and/or objection and/ or any right / title / interest/ estate of the Developer and/or Owner in respect of the Property or any portion thereof and/or the unsold inventory / flats in the Project including by way of mortgage, hypothecation, encumbrance, entitlement, sale, agreement for sale, transfer, assignment, lease, agreement to lease, sub-lease, agreement to sub-lease, tenancy, license, sub-license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, compensation claims, gift, lis-pendens, exchange, share, beneficial interest, possession, release, relinquishment, partition, power of attorney, contract/ agreement, will, bequest, inheritance, FAR, FSI, development rights, family arrangement/ settlement, partnership, possession, allotment, order or decree or direction of any court of law or any other statutory or adjudicating authority or acquisition by government or any entity, prohibition or any other impediment with respect to the Property or by way of any other method or otherwise howsoever (**"Claims"**) or have already filed any suit, dispute, petition, appeal or other proceedings or sent any demand notice or obtained any decree, judgement, award or other order concerning the Property or any part thereof and/or the unsold inventory or unsold flats forming part of the Project, are hereby called upon and are required to give notice of any such Claims or objections, if any, in writing to Khaitan & Co, Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road, Bengaluru-560 025 also with a copy addressed over email at bangalore.publicnotice@khaitanco.com (marked to the attention of Mr Sudheer H Madamaiah) along with copies of necessary supporting documents to prove such Claims or objections , if any, within [**15** (**fifteen**) days] from the date of publication hereof, failing which it would be deemed that no party or person has any claim, right, title, interest, entitlement, share, demand in or over the Property or any part thereof and/or the unsold inventory or unsold flats forming part of the Project, of any nature whatsoever exists and same shall be treated as waived or abandoned and or not binding upon the Developer and/or Owner.

SCHEDULE

(*Description of the Land*)

Details of the Land:

All that part and parcel of the land in Survey No 61/1 admeasuring 4717.9 square meters carved out of larger land in Survey Nos 61, 61/1, 61/2, 61/3 admeasuring 5 acres 24.1 guntas having BBMP Khatha No 490 situated in Whitefield Main Road, Mahadevapura Village, Krishnaraja Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, in the state of Karnataka and bounded as under:

North : ITPL Main Road;
South : Private Property;
East : BBMP School and Private Property;
West : Private Property.

Details of the Units:

The below mentioned commercial units being constructed on the Property, together with proportionate undivided rights/ share in the common amenities along with 286 car parking space situated on the Land.

Units	Total area (square feet)
Ground Floor	40,006
First Floor	37,363
Second Floor	32,685
Third Floor	28,584
Fourth Floor	28,584
Fifth Floor	28,473
Sixth Floor	28,584
Seventh Floor	28,584
Eight Floor	28,471
Ninth Floor	4,586
Tenth Floor	2,584
Eleventh Floor	6,154
Total	**2,94,656**

Dated this 29th day of March 2023.

Sudheer H Madamaiah
Partner
Khaitan & Co
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1
Magrath Road
Bengaluru - 560 025
T: +9180433 97000
Mobile: 98455 25612

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

DOB: 22.12.1951 DOD: 28.03.2023

We are saddened to announce the sudden demise of our beloved

Dr. REKHA SHETTY

She was a source of inspiration to many with her perpetually positive attitude. She will always be in our hearts.

Jai, Adhil, Arjun, Rati, Reha, Akira, Ira, Raniya, friends and family

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client Smt. Vanishree Prabhu wife of Sri. Venkatesh Prabhu, residing at A1, 802, Purva Atria,Ashwathnagar, Bengaluru – 560094, has negotiated with Smt. B. M. Nirupama, wife of Sri. N. Mohan Raj,Sri. N Mohan Raj son of N.V. Narsimhaiah, Sri. Dhanush M son of N. Mohan Raj and Kumari. M. Madhuri daughter of N. Mohan Raj, since minor represented by natural guardian and mother Smt. B. M. Nirupama, all are residing at #614, Namagondalu,Gauribidanur Taluk,Chikaballapura – 561206, for purchase of the schedule properties mentioned hereunder.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that peace and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy.No.50/3B, Balareddihalli Village, Manchenahalli Hobli, Gauribidanur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District measuring to an extent of 02 Acres 24 guntas, bounded as follows:- **East:** Sy. No.94, Sy. No. 51/4, Sy. No. 51/5 and Sy. No. 51/6 **West**: Sy. No. 49 **North:** Sy. No. 50/3A2 **South**: Sy No. 94 and 46

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that peace and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy. No.51/5, Balareddihalli Village, Manchenahalli Hobli, Gauribidanur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District measuring to an extent of 00 Acres 15 guntas, bounded as follows: - **East :** Road. **West :** Property of Vendor in Sy. No. 50/3B. **North** : Property of Vendor in Sy. No. 51/6. **South:** Property of Praveen in Sy. No. 51/4.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY

All that peace and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Sy. No.51/6, Balareddihalli Village, Manchenahalli Hobli, Gauribidanur Taluk, Bangalore Rural District measuring to an extent of 00 Acres 15 guntas, bounded as follows:- **East:** Road. **West:** Sy. No. 51/3 A2 owned by Mallappa. **North:** Sy. No.51/3 owned by Gangamma wife of Sajjappa. **South**: Sy. No. 51/5 belong to Vendor.

With all appurtenances and easements.

Any person/s having/asserting any right, title or interest/claims or intending to oppose the purchase in any manner may file their written objections to undersigned within Seven days from the date of publication of the notice hereof with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained, and our client will proceed with the purchase of the said Properties.

Sd/-
SHARATH S. GOGI
Off: No.502, 4th Cross, 3rd Block, RMV 2nd Stage (Near ISRO H.O.), Bangalore-560094. Mobile- 9886070832

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2022-23/7316 Date: 28.03.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works including supply of equipment's/materials, erection (including civil works), testing & commissioning **on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL):**

(1) BID ENQUIRY No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2022-23/Additional Wadi, Call-2/ Dated: 14.03.2023 for Providing additional 1x10MVA, Power Transformer along with additional switch,Àgear at 110/11KV Wadi Sub Station in Kalaburagi District, Chittapur Taluk.

(2) BID ENQUIRY No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)C/KLB/DCA/EE(O)/AEE-2/2022-23/Additional Nalwar, Call-2/ Dated: 14.03.2023 for Providing additional 1x10MVA, Power Transformer at 110/33/11kV Nalwar Sub station in Kalaburagi District, Chittapur Taluk.

The bids will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the E-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"List of Tenders" or https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in on or after 30.03.2023 .** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer(Ele)., Trans(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi-585 105, Phone: 08472-256176.

Excise policy case: Kavitha's representative appears before ED

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A representative of Bharat Rashtra Samithi MLC K. Kavitha appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday to facilitate extraction of data from the mobile phones deposited by her in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

On Monday, the agency had written to Ms. Kavitha seeking her presence or that of her representative for the purpose. Earlier this month, it recorded her statements under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The ED has alleged that the Hyderabad-based liquor businessman, Arun Ramchandra Pillai, who was earlier arrested in the case, allegedly represented the interests of Ms. Kavitha. He along with co-accused Abhishek Boinpally and chartered accountant Butchibabu Gorantla was allegedly a front for the "south group" that was extended favours.

As alleged by the agency, Mr. Pillai was a 32.5% partner in Indo Spirits, which had got a wholesale liquor licence. It was a partnership firm among Mr. Pillai, one Prem Rahul (32.5%) and Indospirit Distribution Limited (35%), wherein he and Mr. Rahul allegedly represented the 'benami' investments of Ms. Kavitha and YSRCP MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy and his son Raghav Magunta, respectively.

Row over insistence on using '*dahi*' on Nandini curd sachet

Move is seen as an attempt to impose Hindi; direction comes from the FSSAI after Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka milk federations seek usage of local names on the product packets

Sharat S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In what is being seen as yet another attempt to impose Hindi on non-Hindi speaking southern States, the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is now faced with a direction from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to label curd as "*dahi*" prominently and use "*mosaru*" (the Kannada equivalent) in brackets.

In the same clarification given to the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, it has said that the words "*tair*" or "*tayir*" can be used in brackets.

A file photo of a woman buying curd from a Nandini milk booth in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

While the clarification has already been opposed by several Kannada groups that have met the KMF officials, the federation is still considering the pros and cons before implementing the direction.

The FSSAI clarification on labelling curd has come recently after Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka milk federations sought usage of local names on the curd sachets.

The labelling comes in the sub-regulation relating to "standards of fermented milk products".

KMF sources confirmed the receipt of the letter from FSSAI.

Narasimhamurthy, the president of Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd., one of the largest milk unions in the State, said that the Board would oppose the attempt to impose Hindi and would write again to FSSAI seeking a review.

'Proof points to Sivasankar's involvement in Kerala LIFE Mission case'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

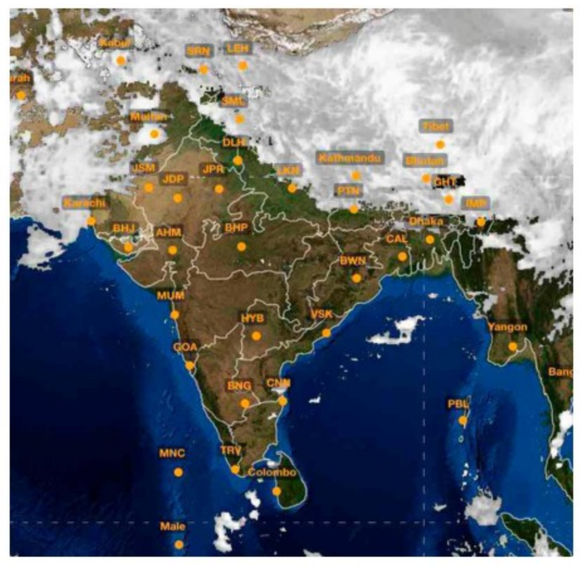
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday informed the Kerala High Court that an investigation and analysis of the evidence, including the digital ones collected so far, have clearly established the involvement of former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister M. Sivasankar in the alleged LIFE Mission money laundering case.

Opposing the bail plea of Mr. Sivasankar, Additional Solicitor General of India, South, R. Sankaranarayanan submitted that Mr. Sivasankar had his interest in the upfront commission earned from Unitac Builders and Developers, run by Santhosh Eappen, which had undertaken the construction of houses under the LIFE Mission project. The allegations against Mr. Sivasankar were "rooted to the kickbacks received from Santhosh Eappen". In fact, Mr. Eappen had admitted to having paid upfront commission to procure the contract.

To a query by the court, the ASGI said the gold smuggling case and the LIFE Mission related money laundering case were independent of each other. While the first case was related to the smuggling of gold through the diplomatic channel, the second was with respect to the bribe received in the implementation of the LIFE Mission project.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Gujarat, west Rajasthan, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.6	21.8	Kozhikode	—	36.3	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	36.8	19.5	Kurnool	—	40.0	24.4
Aizawl	19	31.0	13.0	Lucknow	—	33.0	17.7
Allahabad	—	35.0	18.4	Madurai	—	38.2	25.8
Bengaluru	—	35.5	21.8	Mangaluru	—	34.7	22.8
Bhopal	—	—	18.6	Mumbai	—	32.0	22.3
Bhubaneswar	8.8	35.2	23.0	Mysuru	—	35.9	22.6
Chandigarh	—	28.5	14.8	New Delhi	—	31.6	15.3
Chennai	—	35.0	26.6	Patna	—	35.3	19.9
Coimbatore	—	37.1	23.2	Port Blair	—	31.6	24.2
Dehradun	—	28.7	13.4	Puducherry	—	34.8	21.6
Gangtok	—	19.3	10.7	Pune	—	35.5	17.4
Goa	—	33.0	20.3	Raipur	—	37.4	22.5
Guwahati	—	33.0	18.6	Ranchi	—	32.8	18.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	18.0	Shillong	1	22.6	10.3
Hyderabad	—	36.8	24.0	Shimla	—	18.7	7.8
Imphal	—	28.5	15.5	Srinagar	—	20.9	4.7
Jaipur	—	32.0	17.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.0	26.2
Kochi	—	31.8	26.6	Tiruchi	—	37.9	26.6
Kohima	5	22.5	12.4	Vijayawada	—	35.4	26.0
Kolkata	—	35.0	24.2	Visakhapatnam	2	32.0	26.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	60	.17	142	130	
Bengaluru	7	22	.31	104	120	
Chennai	.22	.23	.57	45	42	
Delhi	.29	.61	.26	201	211	
Hyderabad	.19	.12	.61	100	129	
Kolkata	.15	.25	.25	95	93	
Lucknow	.32	.31	.51	154	110	
Mumbai	.12	.36	.51	220	132	
Pune	104	154	112	113	88	
Visakhapatnam	.18	.39	.15	49	88	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 289 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Efforts on to unite baby orphaned in U.S. with his grandparents in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Union and Tamil Nadu governments are coordinating with Tamil diaspora in the United States of America to aid an Indian woman in her legal struggle to obtain the custody of her two-year-old nephew, whose parents were found dead in Mississippi in May last year. The Indian aunt is planning to bring the baby back to Tamil Nadu to unite him with his grandparents.

Acting on a representation from the aunt of the two-year old baby (who is a U.S. citizen by birth), the Tamil Nadu government's Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board earlier this month took up the issue with the External Affairs Ministry to help the family of the baby's parents, who were natives of Usilampatti in Madurai district.

Earlier this week, Non-Resident Tamils' Welfare Board chairperson Karthikeya Sivasenapathy chaired a meeting in Memphis in Tennessee State with the baby's family members, officials from the Consulate General of India, Atlanta, office-bearers from REACTION (Response Emergency Access & Care To Indian Overseas Network Team, Inc.), representatives from Mid-South Tamil Sangam, volunteers from Dallas, among others.

Following the death of the baby's parents, the local Child Protective Services in Mississippi secured the baby. Meanwhile, a neighbour obtained a power of attorney to take care of the baby temporarily and another family which was not related to the child by blood obtained temporary placement of the child for foster care.

The Indian aunt too had gone to the U.S. to seek custody of her nephew. After the issue went to a local court, a report from the Child Welfare Committee from Tamil Nadu was produced to support the case of the baby's aunt, who has secured visitation rights, while the temporary custody of the baby remained with another family fighting for the custody.

Margadarsi case: CID summons top company officials

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

In a fresh development, the Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department authorities have summoned Margadarsi Chit Fund Private Ltd (MCFPL) Chairman Cherukuri Ramoji Rao and Managing Director Cherukuri Sailaja, over the alleged violations, including non payment of money to subscribers, diversion of funds, hiding records and others.

While serving a notice under Section 160 of Cr.P.C, dated on March 27, Ch. Ravi Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, AP CID, Guntur, said that the authorities needed to examine Mr. Ramoji Rao and Ms. Sailaja.

The official said that as the investigating officer he felt that their examination is just and necessary "for effective investigation and to arrive at a better conclusion".

He instructed both Mr. Ramoji Rao and Ms. Sailaja to make themselves available at their respective place of residence or office on March 29 or March 31 or April 3 or April 6 and cooperate in the probe. The officer asked them to give him any one of the convenient day out of the four.

City sparkles

The illuminated Beach Road leading to the venue of the G-20 Infrastructure Working Group Meeting in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. The inaugural event saw the participation of 57 delegates from 14 member countries and eight guest countries. K.R. DEEPAK

Bus carrying T.N. pilgrims falls into a pit in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

A bus carrying 64 people including its driver fell into a pit near Elavumkal along the Sabarimala-Erumely route on Tuesday. The passengers were all natives of Mayaram village in Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 1.20 p.m. when the driver of the bus lost control of it while negotiating a steeply declining curve near a culvert near Naranamthodu. Local residents soon launched a rescue mission and were joined by the police and Fire and Rescue Services from Nilackal, Seethathodu and Pathanamthitta.

The bus driver, who sustained serious injuries, was among the 11 people admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital, Kottayam. Thirty-two pilgrims who suffered minor injuries were taken to the Pathanamthitta General Hospital. Of the nine children on board, three were shifted to Kottayam while the rest were admitted to the Pathanamthitta GH.

Preliminary reports suggested that the pilgrims were on their way to the Palani Murugan temple after visiting Sabarimala.

Eight from Sri Lanka reach Dhanushkodi islet: police

L. Srikrishna
RAMESWARAM

Eight persons, including children, from Killinochi in Sri Lanka who reached the Kothandaramar temple on the Indian shore by a vessel, were brought to the Mandapam police station in a hovercraft by the Indian Coast Guard on Tuesday. During interrogation, the Sri Lankan Tamils said they had come here because of the economic crisis in their country.

They allegedly paid ₹1.45 lakh in Sri Lankan currency to a boatman and reached the temple around 10.30 p.m. on Monday. The Coast Guard personnel, intercepted the refugees, and handed them over to the police on Tuesday.

Do not allow activities detrimental to Mallathahalli lake: Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) not to allow temporary or permanent construction or commercial, recreational, industrial or any other activities leading to pollution and directly or indirectly detrimental to Mallathahalli lake and lakebed.

The Court also directed the authorities not to permit any individual, group or any political party to use the tank area for recreational or celebrations.

A Division Bench comprising Justice B. Veerappa and Justice Venkatesh Naik T. issued the direction while disposing of an application complaining about use of Mallathahalli lakebed area for cultural and recreational activities by certain individuals from the Bharatiya Janata Party's Rajarajeshwari Nagar constituency unit during recent Shivaratri celebrations.

However, the BBMP had denied the allegation of using the lakebed and pointed out to the Court that permission for Shivaratri celebrations was granted in the area outside the lakebed and no permission was granted to install any permanent statue. The BBMP has also clarified to the Court that entire lake (around 71.18 acres) is protected by fence and Home Guards are appointed to guard the lake and they will not allow any celebrations, which affect the lakebed.

Cleaning of Kalyani

The civic body also told the court that a kalyani is being constructed at a distance of 52 meters from the lakebed and hence, it is neither in the prohibited area nor encroached lake area as alleged by the petitioner. This kalyani, constructed on the lines near several other lakes, is for activities like immersion of Ganesh and Durga idols and performing of traditional rituals of Chhath pooja.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the authorities to ensure that the kalyani is cleaned immediately after every festival and water in kalyani should not get mixed with water in the tank. The authorities should not grant permission for putting up/installation of any permanent or concrete structure inside the lakebed, the Bench said.

Govt. committed to supporting flying cars: Scindia

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The concept of flying cars that we used to see in movies has become a reality, and the government is fully committed to supporting this mode of transport, said Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Delivering the keynote address at the international conference and exhibition on Advanced Short Haul Air Mobility for All (ASHA): Technologies for Ease of Air-Transport, Mr. Scindia said, "The concept of flying cars, which we used to see in movies like *Blade Runner* and *Star Wars* while we were growing up, is today a reality."

Jyotiraditya Scindia

"Let me commit on this stage on the behalf of the Civil Aviation Ministry and on behalf of the Government of India that we are willing to be equal stakeholders with you and partner in this progress of setting up of what will be the seed of a new revolution of transport in the world starting with India," he said. Mr. Scindia, referring to a market study conducted by Mckinsey, said, "31% to 49% of Indians want to travel by Advanced Air Mobility. Imagine the market you are talking about. You are talking about 650 million people, two times the total population of the United States of America and 1.3 times the population of Europe combined. That is the market that is ready today in India to adopt ASHA as part of their daily activities."

Mr. Scindia also stressed the need to scale up infrastructure to make Advanced Air Mobility using electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft a reality.

"We need to make sure that vertiports are built, short landing and take-off facilities are provided," he said.

Suspect moves

Tinkering with reservation quota in run-up to elections appears political

Statecraft involves management of competing demands for accommodation and inclusion, without unduly affecting the interests of any section of society. However, some rulers, such as those in Karnataka, want to be seen as discriminating against a minority group in the hope of garnering the support of the majority. The Karnataka government's decision to scrap the 4% quota for Muslims within the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and earmark an additional 2% each to the dominant Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities is a divisive gamble in the expectation of electoral dividends. The BJP regime has also created four subcategories to introduce internal reservation for different Dalit communities under the Scheduled Caste (SC) category. The scrapping of reservation for Muslims, whose poorer members will now have to compete with the general category for the 10% 'Economically Weaker Sections' quota, is reminiscent of the abrogation of the 5% quota for Muslims in Maharashtra in 2015. While reservation on the basis of religion alone is untenable, it appears that there has been no recommendation from the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission for the withdrawal of reservation benefits for Muslims. The BJP has sought to portray the introduction of reservation for Muslims in 1995 as an instance of minority appeasement.

It is indeed true that the Constitution does not allow reservation on the basis of religion alone, and that there have been judicial verdicts striking down quotas for Muslims for not being backed by a proper study on the extent of backwardness in the community. However, it is possible to extend reservation benefits to the backward sections among religious minorities identified on the basis of relevant criteria. Some States have been implementing reservation in educational institutions as well as public employment for Muslims by including them in the Backward Classes (BC) list. It is futile to argue that large sections of Muslims have reached a level of social and educational advancement that will justify their exclusion from the BC category, or that they are not under-represented in the services. While Muslim leaders and organisations have opposed the scrapping of the reservation, the categorisation of the SC communities is also controversial. Sections of Dalits are up in arms against the reordering of the 17% SC quota among different groups. Major decisions, such as changing the reservation policy, in the run-up to elections are not merely suspect, but may end up stoking unwanted fires.

Tactical retreat

Netanyahu cannot deliver on his agenda without alienating large sections

When Benjamin Netanyahu began his current term as Israel Prime Minister in December last year, he identified four main goals for the country's 37th government: block Iran; restore Israel's security and governance; deal with the cost of living problem; and expand the "circle of peace" (with Arabs). But in the past four months, his government's single-minded focus was on passing its judicial overhaul Bills in the Knesset, triggering unprecedented protests. Initially, Mr. Netanyahu, whose coalition has a comfortable majority (by Israeli standards) in Parliament, vowed to press ahead. As protests grew, rebellion broke out. He fired his Defence Minister Yoav Gallant after he called for a delay in passing the Bills, citing national security risks, but the crisis had already grown out of his hands. On Monday, amid protests and a paralysing general strike, the Prime Minister announced the suspension of the Bills, not wanting to push Israel into a civil war. Earlier, Itamar Ben-Gvir, National Security Minister, had warned the Prime Minister against "surrendering to the anarchists" and threatened to quit the coalition if he did so. But Mr. Netanyahu has managed to keep his coalition together, for now. To ensure the support of Mr. Ben-Gvir, a Jewish extremist, the Cabinet would transfer the National Guard to his Ministry.

Mr. Netanyahu, who first came to power in 1996 defeating Shimon Peres, has seen many ups and downs. Yet, the current crisis is arguably his toughest. Mr. Netanyahu has overseen a dramatic shift in Israel's polity towards the extreme right. Its result: the current government, comprising the right-wing (Likud), religious (Shas and United Torah Judaism) and far-right (Religious Zionist and Otzma Yehudit) parties. The extreme right has long argued that the judicial checks and balances are preventing the country from realising its true Jewish identity; the planned judicial reforms, which would give Parliament control over judicial appointments and the powers to override Supreme Court rulings, are a part of this push. Mr. Netanyahu and his allies have been able to control the narrative when it came to the occupation of Palestine or countering external threats, but their move to consolidate more power has triggered widespread resistance from different sections, including from the defence establishment. By suspending the Bills, Mr. Netanyahu has only delayed, and not resolved, the impact of the crisis. He has promised to return the Bills to the Knesset after a month through consensus. But it remains unclear how there will be nationwide consensus on such a polarising issue that has seen even diplomats on strike. He should rather convince his allies of the crisis their government is in, abandon the plan to weaken the judiciary altogether, and focus on the more pressing challenges Israel faces.

A disturbing example of the normalisation of lawfare

Gautam Bhatia

is a Delhi-based lawyer

The word "lawfare" is a portmanteau of "law" and "warfare". It refers to the weaponisation of law, and of legal systems, in order to intimidate, harm, or delegitimise an opponent (often, a political opponent). In thriving constitutional democracies, judiciaries are often alert to the possibility of powerful political figures deploying lawfare against their rivals, and are quick to turn back such attempts.

However, the conviction of the now former Congress Member of Parliament from Wayanad, Rahul Gandhi, for criminal defamation by a court in Surat, and his subsequent disqualification from the Lok Sabha, represents a disturbing example of the normalisation of lawfare in India.

Let us first take the criminal defamation case. Proceedings against Mr. Gandhi were initiated in a court in Surat, for a political speech he had made at Kolar, Karnataka, in 2019. Legal experts have already pointed out the many surprising features about the process, which involved the complainant getting a year-long stay on the case that he himself had initiated, a different judge, and the sudden acceleration, and atypically quick decision in the case, over the last one month.

Legally unsustainable judgment

Leaving all that aside, however, it is evident that the judgment itself is legally unsustainable. Mr. Gandhi was prosecuted for the following remark: "how are the names of all these thieves 'Modi, Modi, Modi' ... Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi." The prosecution was based on the complaint of Purnesh Modi, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, who claimed that by virtue of his surname, he, along with all other people bearing the surname "Modi", had been defamed by Mr. Gandhi's remark.

If this sounds like an absurd argument, it is because it is an absurd argument. To prevent people from being dragged to the courts in frivolous proceedings, the law of defamation is clear that if references are made to an indefinite "class" of people, an individual cannot claim that they are a member of that class, and have, therefore, been defamed. For example, if I say that "all lawyers are thieves", a lawyer cannot come to court and say that they have been defamed, unless they can show a specific imputation identifying them, directly.

The "class of all persons in the world bearing the surname Modi" is a similarly indefinite and indeterminate group. Not only that, Mr. Gandhi's remark did not even insinuate that every person bearing the surname "Modi" was a thief, by virtue of that surname. How, therefore, an individual was able to prosecute the case on the claim that he had been personally defamed by Mr. Gandhi's remark, is extremely bewildering; and the fact that the trial court was willing to entertain the claim, even more so.

> The case of the former Wayanad MP also spotlights the danger courts could face to their legitimacy — namely, losing their reputation for impartiality between contending political forces

Quantum of sentence

While the fact of conviction is one thing, the quantum of the sentence is another. Criminal defamation has a maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment. This 'maximum penalty' is very rarely awarded, on the understanding that defamation is a pure speech offence, and that, ideally, people should not be imprisoned for lengthy periods purely on the basis of something they said. There are almost no recorded instances of courts awarding the maximum sentence, two years, in a criminal defamation case. While sentencing is discretionary, and guidelines for sentencing are rare, the court's decision to award the maximum possible penalty is another strange feature of this case.

It has not escaped public attention that, indeed, the quantum of sentence was exactly that which was needed to attract an MP's disqualification from Parliament. Indeed, immediately after the judgment was delivered, the Lok Sabha Secretariat served a disqualification order upon Mr. Gandhi; at that point, the judgment had not even been translated, and, as legal experts have pointed out, it was doubtful whether the Lok Sabha Secretariat had accessed a certified copy.

The disqualification proceedings are another example of lawfare. The Constitution authorises the disqualification of a Member of Parliament insofar as it is provided for under law. The Representation of the People Act, the relevant law, stipulates that if a person is convicted of any offence and sentenced for a period of not less than two years, he shall stand disqualified from the legislature for the period of his sentence, and for a further period of six years after his release.

Until 2013, the Representation of the People Act also stated that the disqualification would not take effect for a period of three months from the conviction, or if an appeal or a revision was brought within that period that appeal or revision had been disposed of by a court.

The intent behind this proviso was evident: disqualifying an elected member of a legislature is an extremely serious action in a parliamentary democracy that is founded on the principle of representation.

Not only does this deprive the people of their choice of representative, but also, upon disqualification, leaves them without representation until such time that a by-election is announced and the seat is filled. For this reason – and given that we have a hierarchy of courts for precisely the reason that judges are human, and can make mistakes – the Representation of the People Act kept a parliamentarian's disqualification in abeyance until at least one appellate body could scrutinise the initial order of conviction and sentence.

On judicial interventions

However, in 2013, acting on a public interest litigation brought by Lily Thomas, the Supreme Court of India struck down this part of the section as unconstitutional. As the lawyer, Paras Nath Singh, points out, in *Lily Thomas* it was expressly argued that striking down this grace period would leave politicians at the mercy of frivolous court judgments, but was given short shrift by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court reasoned that the convicted politician could always move the appellate court for a stay upon their conviction. However, not only does this interpretation concentrate more power in the hands of courts when it comes to the political process but it is also naive from the perspective of lawfare: as the case of Mr. Gandhi has shown, when the Lok Sabha Secretariat issues the disqualification order before even a translation of the judgment was available, and before the convicted individual's lawyers have had a feasible chance to move for a stay, the protection the Court thought was available is nothing more than a chimera.

Indeed, the Lily Thomas judgment is just one of many examples where, acting on so-called "public interest litigation petitions", the Supreme Court has intervened in the political process. This has ostensibly been with a view to "purifying" the process and removing criminal elements; what it has done, however, has been to make lawfare easier. The case of Mr. Gandhi highlights that amply.

For these reasons, the conviction and disqualification of Mr. Gandhi represents another signpost in a concerning drift towards the normalisation of lawfare as a political tactic. It is concerning because one crucial component of the legitimacy of courts is their reputation for impartiality between contending political forces. Recent examples from Poland and Hungary have shown how quickly that reputation can be lost. It is for the judiciary to ensure that what could also happen here, does not happen here.

The need for sector-specific safeguards in 'techade'

Sumeysh Srivastava

is Manager, Public Policy at The Quantum Hub (TQH Consulting)

India's digital economy is set to reach a whopping $1 trillion by 2026. People are going digital rapidly for everything – from shopping and socialising to education and government services. But, as we embrace convenience, we are also generating massive amounts of personal data. Understanding how this data is handled and protected is fast becoming critical.

The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2022, that was proposed recently, comes after five years of discussion and deliberation on a framework to safeguard citizens' information from misuse and unauthorised access. Even as the Bill outlines citizens' rights over their personal data and the responsibilities of data collectors, it lacks specificity in certain clauses such as the interaction with sectoral data protection regulations.

On sectoral regulation, global approaches

The current draft of the Bill tries to tackle the issue of conflicting sectoral regulations; in Section 29, it states that the provisions of the Bill will complement and not create exemptions from existing regulations, but in case of conflict, the Bill will take precedence. The first part allows the Bill to fill in any regulatory gaps, but the second part raises concerns about sectoral regulations that may go beyond what the Bill provides. Data protection and privacy are highly dependent on context, including the type of data collected, how it is collected, the intended use and the associated risks. This makes sectoral expertise crucial to regulate effectively. Sectoral expertise offers a deep understanding of a particular sector, including its market dynamics, technologies, risks and business models. It also enables regulators to engage with stakeholders and industry experts in a well-informed and productive manner.

> The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill must serve as a basic layer of protection, with sectoral regulators having the ability to build on this

The global community has adopted two major approaches to regulate privacy and protect data: comprehensive legislation and sector-specific regulations. The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) embodies the comprehensive approach, offering the strongest and most stringent framework to date. Meanwhile, the sectoral approach in the United States, as seen through laws such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) in health care, and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLBA) for financial institutions, is a patchwork of regulations tailored to specific industries.

The GDPR, despite being a comprehensive framework, has specific provisions for certain industries such as health care (Article 9). Additionally, GDPR also permits EU Member States to implement measures which go beyond the provisions given in the GDPR. For example, Germany also has Bundesdatenschutzgesetz (BDSG), which in some cases, has stricter provisions compared to the GDPR. The European Data Protection Board (EDPB), made up of representatives from each EU member state's data protection authority, provides guidance on the implementation and interpretation of the GDPR, including sector-specific issues.

The American sectoral approach to data protection has been deemed flawed for various reasons, including inconsistent protection, problems in enforcement, overlapping and contradictory provisions, and a lack of federal regulation leaving certain sectors unprotected. This creates confusion and coverage gaps for businesses, and there is no centralised authority to enforce data protection laws, leading to a lack of standardisation. Calls for a federal framework have become increasingly common, even in the United States. The GDPR model may not work for India as the Data Protection Board is designed as a grievance agency, and not as a regulator. The earlier version of the Bill with a Data Protection Authority of India may have been better suited as an independent regulator such as the EDPB.

Therefore, the current draft of the Bill, while a major step towards ensuring the protection of citizens' personal data, needs greater clarity and specificity regarding the interaction with sectoral regulations; we need to draw from our experience to find the right balance

Finding the right space for the Bill

In India, for example, we already have sectoral regulations regarding data protection such as the Reserve Bank of India's directive on storage of payment data and the National Health Authority's Health Data Management Policy. These are the result of extensive industry consultations and expert input. Neglecting these regulations and establishing a new framework would undermine the considerable effort invested in their creation. Any deviation from existing regulations will further require the industry to readjust their operations again at considerable cost.

The DPDP Bill, therefore, must serve as the minimum layer of protection, with sectoral regulators having the ability to build on these protections. This framework will be especially useful in India where not all regulators may have the same capacity. Data protection is a complex subject and we must create room for sectoral experts to weigh in to safeguard the interests of citizens more effectively. This will ensure a safer, more secure, and dynamic digital landscape in the years to come.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Third degree methods

The disturbing details in a front page report, "ASP who 'broke teeth' of suspects put in vacancy reserve" (March 28) — of a police official in Ambasamudram, Tamil Nadu — brings back memories of the Bhagalpur blindings of 1979-1980. That young, well-qualified police officials in the higher echelons of service turn beasts is shocking. What message does it send to their colleagues and the public? We await answers from the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie and the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

It was distressing to read the report. Though minimum force may be permitted legally to extract information from the accused, to subject them to grievous assault and barbarous acts is a case of sheer arrogance and a misuse of power. It is time police officers and personnel are trained or counselled on how to treat accused persons with dignity. Instances of barbarism will only deface the reputation of the police force.

E.S. Chandrasekaran,
Chennai

Waiting for justice

It should be a ray of hope that the Supreme Court of India has issued notice to Gujarat and the Central governments in the Bilkis Bano case, though the survivor may have to wait for some more time for justice to be delivered. Keeping aside legal arguments about the granting of remission, the premature release of the 11 convicts under the cover of "good conduct" in jail only ended up jolting the collective conscience of the people of this nation. Much worse, and even more horrifying, was that these men were given a rousing welcome by many including women. Were they not aware of the heinous crime?

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

The move by the Supreme Court offers hope to the survivor, Ms. Bano, who has suffered extreme physical and mental injuries. I hang my head in shame after the remission of the 11 men who committed heinous crimes. One hopes that all these men will be returned to jail and put behind bars. It is also hoped that those instrumental in the miscarriage of justice are served the harshest punishment.

Avinash Godboley,
Dewas, Madhya Pradesh

The report of alleged police torture in Tamil Nadu on the one hand and the long wait for justice for Ms. Bano show that things are never smooth as far as the police and legal systems in India are concerned. To this one must add another report, "Man on death row freed as he was [a] minor during crime" (Inside pages, March 28). That the man had to spend more than 28 years of his life in prison only underscores the sad and sorry plight of the many thousands locked up in India's prisons.

R. Subramaniam,
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Understanding the street dogs-human conflict

Maneka Gandhi

is a BJP Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Sultanpur

For about 25,000 years, we have coexisted with dogs. Dogs protect us, and give us emotional support and companionship. They are loyal, friendly and intelligent. We are now witnessing a disintegration of this beautiful bond. Intolerance is growing not only towards dogs, but also cats, cows, birds and other creatures. We then extend the same intolerance towards friends, family, neighbours, co-workers, co-passengers and strangers. It has been proven that when a person is mean to animals, he is also mean to his own species.

Identifying an enemy

Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) are often the instigators of violence. The person who stands for election in these societies knows that he has no real power: no control over maintenance, electricity, building, sale, rent, or water. What he can control is the choice of guard at the gate, and whether dogs should be allowed inside. Power demands that an enemy be identified, so dogs living there peacefully become the target. And by constantly heckling them, we make dogs nervous. Residents have told the police that the child who was bitten to death in Hyderabad would constantly beat and tease three animals. The residents repeatedly warned the child's father. On top of that, the father, the watchman, had refused to let anyone feed the dogs for three days. Then, the society chairman/secretary targeted the humans who fed the dogs and made the community safe. Then came the mobs, instigated by statements of violence on group chats. When the RWAs go for election, both groups vie with each other on the level of violence they will inflict on animals – whether dogs, cats or pigeons.

Conflicts between humans and dogs are only symptoms of the real problem. Dogs get aggressive when they perceive a threat. They want to protect themselves or their litter from attacks if they are unwell or hungry, have been forcibly relocated, or have witnessed abuse and neglect. This can be remedied if we are kind to them and follow management rules which have been clearly set out by national and State governments and various courts.

During colonial times, dogs and Indians were disallowed from entering areas of privilege. Both were treated with violence and contempt. Street dogs were routinely killed so that their numbers would reduce. That did not work then, and it will not work now. Nature allows animals to have as many offspring and as frequently as there is space in the environment. If there is a vacuum, it will be occupied by a more inconvenient species, such as rats, mice, mongoose and cockroaches. The London Plague of 1665 was a result of the killing of 2,50,000 dogs and cats. The mice population grew, and 70% of the human population was wiped out by the Black Death pandemic. A similar incident happened in Surat not long ago and we had a plague scare as a result of removing dogs.

Indeed the multiplication of dogs on the streets must be curtailed. The Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules (ABC Rules) of 2001 have been recommended by the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health as the only way to bring about a sustained decline in the dog population, incidence of rabies, and aggression in dogs. However, necessary measures have not been implemented by local authorities to adequately and scientifically manage the street dog population. The lack of budget and infrastructure, the prevalence of corrupt and inefficient practices, and the absence of transparency and monitoring were the challenges for two decades. Recently, the Central government issued a new set of ABC Rules that bridge these gaps. Rather than seeking the removal of dogs, the responsible and effective strategy would be for citizens to demand from the municipal bodies an ABC Programme in accordance with the new ABC Rules of 2023.

> If we claim to be the superior species, we must act responsibly, scientifically and humanely

Adopt native dogs

A proactive approach would be to encourage the adoption of Indian dogs. If one person out of every 100 people adopts a dog from the street, there would be no dogs on the roads. The fascination for foreign breeds keeps alive the brisk business of cruel puppy mills and dingy pet shops. Most dogs of foreign breeds in pet shops have parvo or distemper and die within weeks. In 2016, the Central government prohibited the import of pedigree dogs into India. In 2017, it notified Rules for strictly regulating dog breeders. In 2018, following a recommendation by the Law Commission, the Pet Shop Rules were notified to prevent the trade of pedigree dogs. Why has Tamil Nadu allowed over 3,000 illegal pet shops and breeders to exist? No attempt has been made to follow the rules. If pet shops are stopped, most dog-related problems will disappear.

Native dogs have better immune systems and make great pets. If a family adopts a native dog or if caregivers feed and socialise with community dogs and help get them neutered, it would be of service to the community. The importance of people who look after native dogs on the streets has been recognised by our courts, such as by the Delhi High Court in Dr. Maya D. Chablani v. Radha Mittal. Also, in the new ABC Rules, community dog caregivers have been granted protection from harassment.

Reports of dog attacks must be tested on the benchmark of proof. Recently, it was reported that two children had been killed by dogs in Vasant Kunj in New Delhi. The Mayor clarified that the autopsy report had not been obtained and that the chances of the children being killed by dogs was slim. But by then, outrageous speculation had already been circulated widely as fact. If we claim to be the superior species, we must act responsibly, scientifically and humanely. Anything else will lead to chaos and misery for all species.

Sleeper cells keep Punjab awake

Anxiety has grown over pro-militant elements across the State

STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva
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While pro-Khalistan preacher Amritpal Singh continues to be at large after what appears to have been a botched-up police operation to capture him on March 18, anxiety over the presence of 'sleeper cells' or pro-militant elements across Punjab and other States in India has only grown.

The one-year-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab, which has been facing flak over the poor law-and-order situation, is yet again on the back foot after the police failed to arrest Mr. Singh. The 30-year-old chief of Waris Punjab De gave the police the slip after his cavalcade was intercepted in Jalandhar district. Mr. Singh, who is booked in at least half a dozen criminal cases, has been on the run since then. This has led to questions about police proficiency. Days after a crackdown was launched on Mr. Singh and others who are disturbing law and order, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, during the hearing of a habeas corpus petition, reprimanded the AAP government for "intelligence failure" as Mr. Singh was not apprehended despite the presence of an 80,000-strong police force in Punjab.

As Mr. Singh's whereabouts are still not confirmed, the police say there is a possibility that 'sleeper cells' of Khalistan sympathisers are harbouring the fugitives and attempting to provide them a safe passage. Security experts have been pointing out for a long time that while the Khalistan movement may have lost popular support in Punjab, which is evidenced by the negligible public support for Mr. Singh

following government action against him, there are people abroad and elsewhere in India who have an interest in keeping the embers of the long-dead Khalistan movement alive. These sleeper cells could be waiting for the right moment to create trouble and could be assessing the strength and capability of the AAP, which is new to power in Punjab.

Over the last year, there have been a series of incidents with Khalistan links in Punjab and neighbouring Himachal Pradesh. In 2022, a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at the headquarters of the Punjab Police Intelligence Wing in Mohali. The police indicated the role of Babbar Khalsa International, a terror organisation striving for a separate Sikh state, and a nexus of gangsters and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, in the attack. There was also a clash in Patiala between pro-Khalistan and anti-Khalistan groups. In Dharamshala, a few Khalistan flags were found on the main gate and walls of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. All these incidents have rekindled fears of armed militancy.

The police have said that some of these incidents have terrorist backing from abroad. This is a dangerous trend and cannot be ignored. The incumbent government cannot afford to let down its guard in Punjab, which shares a border with a hostile Pakistan. Treading with caution and sensitivity is the need of the hour.

There have been persisting concerns about drugs, cash, weapons, and explosives being pushed into India from Pakistan through drones and other means. Who is receiving these, and where are these people located? They are apparently the 'sleeper cells,' located in the State and possibly elsewhere in the country.

Shashi Kant, a former Punjab Director General of Police, who has served in numerous intelligence agencies, says the police should investigate further and find out the recipients of these drugs, cash, explosives and arms who pose a serious threat to internal security.

In June last year, the victory of Simranjit Singh Mann, a known hardliner Sikh leader and chief of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) from Punjab's Sangrur parliamentary constituency, who has time and again been raising the bogey of Khalistan, was perceived by many to indicate that radical people are gaining strength and the narrative surrounding Khalistan could get emboldened. A few months later, the rapid rise of Mr. Singh and the increase in Khalistan-linked incidents has created ripples across the State and beyond.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has asserted that some people are trying to divide the State on sectarian lines for the sake of their own vested interests and maintained that the acts and intentions of these leaders, which are inimical to Punjab and its people, will not be allowed at any cost. He has promised that they will be given a befitting answer. The arrest of Amritpal Singh could go a long way in instilling confidence among the people in the new government and its promises.

More young Albanians cross into the U.K. for new beginnings

The rise in young illegal migrants is fuelled by men in search of better jobs

DATA POINT

AP, The Hindu Data Team

Monika Mulaj's son was in the second year of college in Albania, studying to become a mechanical engineer, when he decided to make a daring change. He told his parents that he wanted to move to the U.K. "We had tried to fulfil all his requests, for books and clothing, food and a bit of entertainment. But he was still dissatisfied," says Mulaj, a high school teacher in the northeastern town of Bajram Curri, which is in one of the country's poorest regions. Five years later, Mulaj's now 25-year-old son is working two jobs in Britain and hardly thinks of returning to his homeland. "Albania is in regress," he complains to his mother.

Like him, thousands of young Albanians have crossed the English Channel in small boats or inflatable dinghies to seek work in the U.K. Their odyssey reflects the country's anaemic economy and a younger generation's longing for new opportunities.

In 2018, only 300 people reached Britain by crossing the channel in small boats **(Table 1).** The number rose to 45,000 in 2022, in part because of arrivals from Albania, a country in southern Europe that is negotiating for membership in the European Union.

Other migrants were from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Syria **(Table 2).**

Albanians seek to move to Britain as it has a better economy and higher paying jobs compared to Greece or Italy. Many of them also have family ties in the U.K. The deputy mayor of Bajram Curri, Abedin Kernaja, says young people leave because of low wages in Albania and the difficulty of building "a comfortable family life." His two sons are in the U.K.

Xhemile Tafaj, who owns a restaurant on a scenic plateau outside town, says "young people have no money to follow school, no job to work, no revenue at all."

As shown in **Table 3**, the share of teenagers and those aged 18-24 who illegally migrated to the U.K. has increased dramatically in recent years, while the share of those aged 25-39 and more than 40 has waned**.** Moreover, the rise in young illegal migrants has been fuelled by men; very few young women choose to move out.

Few migrants seek a visa. They generally pay smugglers $5,300 to $21,200 for the illegal, dangerous crossing. Many undertake the trip with the expectation of a secure job, only to find when they reach the U.K. that they must work in cannabis-growing houses for up to two years to pay back the trafficking money, according to reports by Albanian news outlets.

Northeastern Albania is famous for chestnuts, blueberries, blackberries and medicinal plants as well as wool carpets and other handmade goods. But those products offer scant job opportunities. The only jobs are at town halls, schools and hospitals and a few more are available at cafes and restaurants.

Petrit Lleshi, who owns a motel in Kukes, has struggled to find waiters for two years. "I would not blame a 25-year-old leaving because of the low salaries here," Lleshi says. "What our country offers is not enough to build a proper life."

Though out-migration from Albania has surged only in recent years, the country's citizens had long yearned to move out. In a Gallup Poll conducted across EU countries (including candidate nations) in 2017, 62% Albanians had said that they would like to permanently migrate to another country if they could. This share was far higher than any other member state, as shown in **Chart 4.** The second highest share of 36% was reported in Italy.

A generation's exodus

Charts are based on data collated from the Official Statistics of the U.K. Home Office and a Gallup face-to-face poll conducted with 1,000 adults in 2017. The data has been collated by Joan Mathew Jacob, a student of the Asian College of Journalism

Channel crossings: Migrants are brought in to Dover, Kent, following a small boat incident in the Channel, England. AP

Table 1 | The table shows the number of people who reached Britain by crossing the Channel in small boats

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	7	45	94	224	1,339
February	0	88	183	308	143
March	0	66	188	831	3,066
April	0	80	558	750	2,143
May	0	150	743	1,627	2,916
June	4	163	727	2,177	3,140
July	0	195	1,111	3,512	3,687
August	10	342	1,469	3,053	8,631
September	7	210	1,949	4,602	7,964
October	23	75	474	2,701	6,900
November	110	151	761	6,971	4,082
December	138	278	209	1,770	1,744

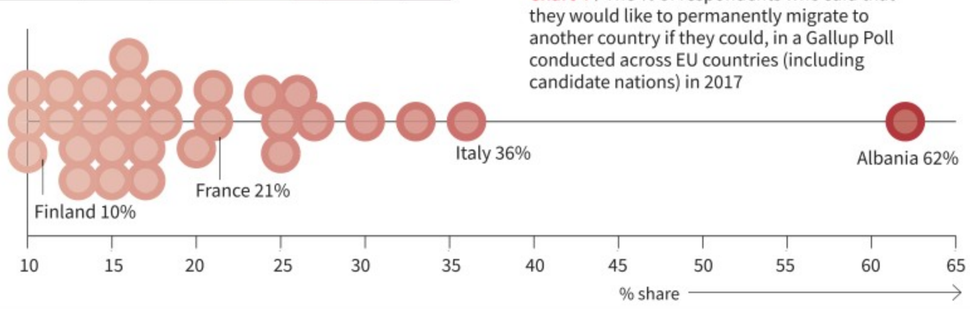
Table 2 | The table shows the nationality of the people who reached Britain by crossing the Channel in small boats

Nationality	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Albania	16	13	54	815	12,301
Afghanistan	3	69	494	1,437	8,633
Iran	238	1,213	2,373	8,319	5,642
Iraq	33	471	1,648	6,117	4,377
Syria	1	14	776	2,451	2,916
Eritrea	0	0	511	2,875	1,942

Table 3 | The table shows the % share of people who reached Britain across age-groups and gender

	Age group and gender	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Under 18	**All**	**8.4**	**16.7**	**17.1**	**15.1**	**15.6**
	Male	5.4	11.2	12.9	11.7	11.7
	Female	3.0	5.5	4.3	3.2	3.4
	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4
18-24	**All**	**13.7**	**15.6**	**22.7**	**33.6**	**34.5**
	Male	13.0	14.3	21.1	31.7	32.2
	Female	0.7	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.0
	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
25-39	**All**	**66.6**	**56.6**	**50.4**	**43.1**	**38.6**
	Male	61.9	49.9	45.4	38.8	33.8
	Female	4.7	6.8	5.0	4.3	4.6
	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
40+	**All**	**11.4**	**11.0**	**9.7**	**6.1**	**7.0**
	Male	11.0	8.9	7.9	5.1	5.8
	Female	0.3	2.1	1.8	1.0	1.2
	Unknown	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
	Not currently recorded	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.3

Chart 4 | The % of respondents who said that they would like to permanently migrate to another country if they could, in a Gallup Poll conducted across EU countries (including candidate nations) in 2017



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 29, 1973

Brando rejects Oscar award

Los Angeles, March 28: "The Godfather" was named the best film of 1972 and its star Marlon Brando, the best actor at the 45th annual Academy Awards presentations here last night – but Brando refused his Oscar. Brando did not appear at the function but a buckskin clad American Indian woman Sacheen Little Feather, got on the stage and told the audience: "Marlon Brando very regretfully cannot accept this award because of the treatment of American Indians in this country to-day on the television, on reruns and recent happenings at Wounded Knee." (American Indians had laid siege to Wounded Knee a tiny prairie township in South Dakota earlier this month). Brando has long been involved in the American Indian movement and once joined an illegal "fishin" by Indians in the Pacific north-west in defiance of a Federal ban. Little Feather's speech was first met by "boos" but these were subsequently drowned out by loud cheers and applause from the celebrities gathered at the awards ceremony. By refusing the Oscar, Brando followed in the footsteps of George C. Scott, who last year declined the award for his title role in "Patton." Liza Minnelli fulfilled a life-long dream of her late mother, Judy Garland, when she won the Oscar for best actress role in "Cabaret." Eileen Heckart was voted best supporting actress for her role as the distraught and domineering mother in "Butterflies are free." Diminutive song and dance man Joey Grey won his Oscar for the best supporting actor as the decadent master of ceremonies in pre-war Germany in "Cabaret."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 29, 1923

New currency notes

Delhi, March 28: The Government of India announces that arrangements are well in hand for the introduction of currency notes of new design. The first issues of ten rupee notes of the new pattern will be made later. The new patterns will enable notes of different denominations to be more easily distinguished than at present, each denomination being larger in size and differing in colour from the denominated next below and special prominence being given to figures and words indicating the value both on the front and back of the notes. It is believed the new notes will provide greater security against forgery than the notes of existing patterns.

From Page One

EPFO set to hike interest on deposits to 8.15%

The total principal amount with the EPFO is ₹11 lakh crore. In the last financial year, the total amount of interest was ₹77,424.84 crore for a principal of about ₹9.56 lakh crore. "The total income recommended for being distributed is the highest till date. The growth in income and the principal is respectively more than 16% and 15% as compared to last financial year 2021-22," the Ministry said. The Centre has been maintaining that the EPFO's interest rate is higher than other comparable investment avenues available for subscribers.

The meeting also decided to map a five-year plan on capital expenditure so that by the end of five years, most of the EPFO offices get their own buildings. The budget for this is ₹2,000 crore.

Another issue that came up in the meeting was related to the EPFO's investment in exchange-traded funds (ETFs). The EPFO is allowed to invest 15% of its deposits in ETFs. Members pointed out that only about 10% of the deposits are now invested in ETF despite securing interest of about 10% and asked the pension fund manager why it has not invested up to the limit of 15% in ETFs.

The issue of EPFO's investments in Adani Group stocks was also raised at the CBT meeting. The officials told the members that the decision to invest in stocks is taken based on the top 50 shares of the National Stock Exchange.

Big win for Palaniswami in HC; OPS suffers jolt

The July resolutions had abolished the posts of Coordinator and Joint Coordinator, revived the post of general secretary to be elected by primary members and appointed Mr. Palaniswami as interim general secretary till the conduct of elections.

He also refused to interfere with the notification issued by the party on March 17 for the conduct of the election and paved way for Mr. Palaniswami to be declared elected as the general secretary. The party had given an undertaking to the court on March 19 that it shall not declare the results of the election until the disposal of the present applications.

The judge said, the general council of the party was fully authorised to amend its bylaws. It was in exercise of such a power, as many as 2,460 out of 2,655 members of the general council had met in Chennai on July 11, 2022 and amended the party's constitution abolishing dual leadership and reviving unitary leadership. Though the applicants before the court had contended that such revival was against a 2017 resolution through which former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa was declared the eternal general secretary of the party, the judge said, these issues could be decided only during the hearing of the four civil suits and not at the stage of considering interim applications.

Justice Babu also rejected the argument that only the Coordinator and Joint Coordinator could represent the AIADMK. He recalled that even during the first round of litigation, the Supreme Court had taken note that Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Palaniswami "do not stand in jointness or even togetherness so as to work cohesively as a unit."

The judge, however, *prima facie* found infraction of the party bylaws with respect to a special resolution through which the four leaders had been expelled from the primary membership of the party without any notice. Despite finding a *prima facie* case in favour of the expelled leaders, the judge refused to injunct the party from giving effect to the special resolution by stating that the balance of convenience was in favour of the party which feared that their inclusion might end up being detrimental to its interests.

Minutes after he pronounced his orders, the third Division Bench of Justices R. Mahadevan and Mohammed Shaffiq accepted a request made by senior counsel C. Manishankar and Abdul Saleem to hear their original side appeals on Wednesday.

Constitutional bodies under attack, says PM

"Corruption has harmed the country a lot, like termites it has hollowed out the country, the people see how previous governments handled action against corruption as a mere formality, and how in the last nine years, the campaign launched by the BJP against corruption has shaken the roots of corruption ," he said.

The Prime Minister's speech was alluding to accusations against his government of vindictive action against political rivals, and his response included data on the action taken in corruption cases.

Mr. Modi added that under the UPA, ₹22,000 crore was the amount that was looted from banks and the perpetrators had fled abroad, but that under the BJP government, ₹30,000 crore had been recovered by seizing the property of these perpetrators.

The sharp attack by the Prime Minister came as Parliament continued to see a face-off between the BJP and the Opposition over the Adani issue and the disqualification of former Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi after he was convicted in a case of criminal defamation by a court in Surat.

Mr. Modi termed the BJP the only pan India party at this time and lauded party workers for the expansion of the BJP's political footprint. He especially mentioned the recent victories of the BJP in the three north-eastern States and said the BJP was still the "number one" party.

UPI payments of over ₹2,000 may attract up to 1.1% fee

Anshika Kayastha
MUMBAI

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has notified that an interchange fee of up to 1.1% will be applicable on merchant UPI (Unified Payments Interface) transactions done using prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) – wallets or cards – with effect from April 1.

The charge will be levied on UPI payments of over ₹2,000 made to merchants. However, on certain merchant categories, a lower interchange fee starting from 0.5% might be levied.

Interchange will not be applicable on P2P (peer-to-peer) and P2PM (peer-to-peer-merchant) between bank accounts and PPI wallets. However, PPI issuers will need to pay 15 bps as "wallet loading service charge" to the remitter bank for loading over ₹2,000 in the wallet.

(The writer works with The Hindu businessline)

Atiq Ahmed gets life in 2006 Umesh Pal abduction case

In addition to the former MP, two more have been convicted; seven other accused, including Ahmed's brother Khalid Azim, a former MLA in U.P., have been acquitted in the case

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

An MP/MLA court in Prayagraj sentenced criminal-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and two others on Tuesday to life imprisonment in the 2006 case of kidnapping lawyer Umesh Pal. Ahmed, a former Lok Sabha member from Phulpur, and two others, Khan Saulat Hanif and Dinesh Pasi, were convicted and given life imprisonment, and ordered to pay ₹1 lakh as compensation to the family of Umesh Pal, who was murdered last month.

Seven other accused, including Ahmed's brother Khalid Azim alias Ashraf, a former MLA, have been acquitted in the case. The former MP is also an accused in the murder of Umesh Pal, a prime witness in the 2005 BSP MLA Raju Pal's murder that took place on Feburary 24.

Stiff protest: Atiq Ahmed being produced at a court amid heavy security, in Prayagraj on Tuesday. PTI

Ahmed, who faces more than eight dozen cases, stands convicted under Section 364A (kidnapping a person and the person being put in danger of being murdered) of the IPC, and others. While on the court premises, Ahmed faced protests from lawyers who demanded the capital punishment for him.

The former MP reached Prayagraj to appear in the case on Monday evening amid heavy security deployment from the Sabarmati Central Jail in Gujarat. A 45-member U.P. Police escort took over Ahmed's custody on Sunday afternoon and brought him to the Naini Central Jail, amid rising pressure to solve the case related to the Umesh Pal killing, as the five assailants who shot the lawyer dead remain absconding. The State police announced a cash reward of ₹5 lakh for information leading to the arrest of each of the accused. It is believed that some of the assailants have sneaked into neighbouring Nepal, which shares an open border with India, making it difficult to apprehend them. As the issue has become a source of embarrassment for the U.P. Police, it has contacted intelligence agencies in New Delhi for help in finding the prime accused in the case.

The gruesome murder of Umesh Pal on February 24 during the Budget Session led to chaotic scenes in the State Assembly, with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath saying that the Samajwadi Party had nurtured such elements during its regime.

BBC News Punjabi 'withheld', restored later

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Twitter account of the BBC's Punjabi news service was 'withheld' in India for a few hours based on a government request on Tuesday. A BBC spokesperson told *The Hindu* that the account has been restored a few hours after it was taken down.

The action was first reported by the *South Asian Journal*, a diaspora-focused news portal. Twitter has not yet published details of the legal request that led it to restrict BBC News Punjabi's account.

This comes as police claim to pursue the pro-Khalistani preacher Amritpal Singh and his followers. The Indian offices of the BBC were 'surveyed' by the IT Department shortly after the release of the two-part documentary *India: The Modi Question*.

The Hindu has reached out to Kanika Mittal, Country Head at Twitter India for comment.

U.S. watching Rahul's case, continues to engage India: official

Press Trust of India
WASHINGTON

Rahul Gandhi was on March 23 sentenced to two years in jail by a Surat court in a 2019 defamation case

The United States is watching the court case of Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, an official has said, while observing that Washington continues to engage with India on the shared commitment towards democratic principles and the protection of human rights, including freedom of expression.

Mr. Gandhi was on March 23 sentenced to two years in jail by a Surat court in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his "why all of these thieves have Modi surname" remark. A day after the order, he was disqualified from the Lok Sabha from the date of his conviction in the case.

"Respect for the rule of law and judicial independence is a cornerstone of any democracy. We are watching Mr. Gandhi's case in Indian courts and we engage with the Government of India on our shared commitment to democratic values, including, freedom of expression," the State Department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters.

"In our engagements, we continue to highlight the importance of democratic principles and the protection of human rights, including freedom of expression, as a key to strengthening both our democracies," he said.

Meanwhile, Opposition parties in India observed a "black day for democracy" on Monday.

Court asks Faizal what basic right was violated

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday queried what fundamental right of Lakshadweep MP P.P. Mohammed Faizal was violated for him to move an Article 32 petition in the top court.

Mr. Faizal has moved the top court stating that though his conviction in a case of attempt to murder was suspended, his Lok Sabha membership had not been restored.

The question was addressed to Mr. Faizal's lawyer by a Bench of Justices. The lawyer said it concerned his client's right to represent his constituency in Parliament.

"Is that a fundamental right? Why can't you move the High Court under Article 226?" the Bench questioned.

The Bench then deferred it to Wednesday.

More than 500 apps blocked on the advice of cyber-crime centre, says Home Minister

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday that more than 500 Internet-based applications have been blocked on the recommendation of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

Reviewing the functioning of the I4C, along with Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Mr. Shah said the Centre has prepared an analytical report of the *modus operandi* of the top 50 cyber-attacks in the country.

The government has taken several initiatives for cyber security and in the coming days, nearly 70% of the criminal justice system that includes prisons and courts, will be online, he added.

More than 20 lakh cyber-crime complaints have been registered on the portal *cybercrime.gov.in*, on the basis of which more than 40,000 FIRs have been registered, he said, adding that 13 crore hits were registered on this portal since its launch in January 2020.

Amit Shah

He said 99.9% of police stations (16,597) are registering 100% FIRs directly on the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS). The CCTNS National Database so far contains 28.98 crore police records.

"If a victim of financial fraud complains immediately calls on the toll-free number 1930, agencies can freeze the SIM card and the bank account involved in the crime. The chance of recovering the money is higher if complained immediately," Mr. Shah said.

The Minister said that the National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO), a searchable registry of convicts involved in sexual offences such as rape, molestation, stalking and child abuse, has a record of 13 lakh offenders so far.

Mr. Shah said the NDOFO (National Database of Offends of Foreign Origin), launched on January 20, is a registry of foreigners involved in crime in India and has details of convicted and accused foreign offenders.

Navy will make you a better person, Admiral tells first batch of Agniveers

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In the first passing-out parade of Agniveers, 2,585 men and women graduated from the portals of Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Chilka*, situated at Khurda, under the aegis of the Southern Naval Command on Tuesday.

The parade was the first such to take place after sunset.

Also, for the first time, the Navy gave the "General Bipin Rawat Rolling Trophy" for a woman Agniveer trainee standing first in overall order of merit.

Terming the event 'historic', Admiral R. Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, who was also the reviewer of the parade, said that those graduating from *INS Chilka* on Tuesday are making history.

"It's a historic event and all of us are witness to the history in the making. It is also the first time that a passing-out parade is happening at sunset, a welcome departure from the usual morning parades," Admiral Kumar said.

Proud moment: Admiral R. Hari Kumar with the first batch of Agniveers at INS Chilka, Odisha on Tuesday. ANI

Creating history

Admiral Kumar maintained that the parade held on Tuesday would not just be creating history of passing first batch of Agniveer but was also an event that marked the strength of women in the forces.

Praising the contribution of the first Chief of Army Staff, the late General Bipin Rawat, in materialising the Agniveer scheme, Admiral Kumar thanked the daughters of Gen. Rawat for agreeing to give away the honour of the rolling trophy to Agniveer Kushi. The chief guest also awarded Agniveer Amalakanti Jayaram (senior secondary recruit) and Agniveer Ajith P. (matric recruit) with the Chief of the Naval Staff Rolling Trophy and the gold medal for best Agniveer.

"As you cross the significant milestone today, let me share what you can expect from the service and what the service expects from you. Indian Navy will not just make you a skilled sailor but will also motivate you to become a capable individual. Navy will also ensure that your social, emotional and psychological skills are enhanced," Admiral Kumar added.

He added that the skill and training of the Navy would keep motivating the Agniveers to live a life of an ideal citizen, who is dedicated to the nation, throughout. The training will make the Agniveer ready for any situation and circumstance.

As part of their transformation to sea warriors, the Agniveers underwent 16 weeks of rigorous training at *INS Chilka*, the premier sailors' training establishment of the Indian Navy.

On June 14, 2022, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had announced the Agnipath scheme, as approved by the Union Cabinet, for recruitment of youth in the armed forces for four years. The process aimed to take in about 46,000 young men and women in the defence forces in next one year.

10,727 tonnes of wheat procured; ban on exports continues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As the procurement of wheat for this rabi season has started, the Food Corporation of India's (FCI) Chairman and Managing Director, Ashok K. Meena, said the Centre will continue the ban on wheat export as long as the country does not feel comfortable in domestic supplies. Mr. Meena said the untimely rain have not impacted the standing crops or harvest as of now.

He said 10,727 tonnes of wheat has been procured up to Monday. No procurement was made in the corresponding period last year.

Mr. Meena said the FCI is estimated to procure 341.5 lakh tonnes of wheat this season as against 187.92 lakh tonnes procured during the last rabi season.

The Centre had finalised procurement estimates based on the information furnished by the States. The estimated production of wheat, according to the Agriculture Ministry, is around 1,121 lakh tonnes in this rabi season.

APPEAL

I am **Pavithra** aged 15 years, suffering from Acute Myeloid Leukemia. I urgently require **Rs.16,00,000/-** to undergo Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. My family is very poor and we are helpless. Kindly support me undergo the treatment with your generous donation. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Reserch Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged**. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.
All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Pavithra

Despite stalemate, Budget Session not to be truncated

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With no end to the stalemate between the Opposition and Treasury benches, the Rajya Sabha functioned for 13 minutes on Tuesday.

However, sources said that in spite of the continued disruptions, the second leg of the Budget Session will not be truncated. It will conclude on April 6 as per the schedule, but with multiple leaves, there are only four working days left in the session.

Tuesday's session began with Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar felicitating the boxers who won gold medals in the Women's World Boxing Championship.

Slogans raised

Later, the House dissolved into disorder with Opposition members, who came dressed in black, raising slogans. They also demanded a probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee into allegations against the Adani Group.

When Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri was making a listed statement, Congress members demanded an apology from him for his remarks against party leader Rahul Gandhi. The House was adjourned to meet after lunch break. When the House met at 2 p.m., Opposition MPs continued their protests.

Mr. Dhankhar announced in the House the decision to allot four hours each for the consideration and passing of the Competition (Amendment) Bill and the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill. Later, Minister of State for Civil Aviation V.K. Singh tabled a correction to an answer given in the House on the net loss incurred by the aviation industry due to disruptions.

Soon after that, Mr. Dhankhar adjourned the House till Wednesday.

Congress plans motion against Speaker for 'bias'

The party is likely to go ahead only after consulting other Opposition parties and if they are in agreement with the decision; Lok Sabha again fails to function after protests over Adani issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha failed to function on Tuesday as Opposition MPs wearing black trooped into the Well of the House shouting slogans and throwing papers at the Speaker's chair.

A section of Congress MPs, at a meeting held on Monday, mulled over moving a resolution against the Speaker for being "unfair" to the Opposition, sources said.

However, the sources said that a decision on the no-confidence motion against the Speaker would be taken only after consulting all Opposition parties and if they are in agreement.

Senior leaders like Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury will be speaking to other parties on the matter. *The Hindu* has learnt that Mr. Chowdhury is yet to start a discussion on the subject.

Continuing impasse: Opposition members staging a protest in the Well of the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. ANI

14-day notice

The no-confidence motion against the Speaker would be moved for his alleged bias against the Opposition including the speed with which Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was disqualified after his conviction by a Gujarat court in a criminal defamation case. Such a motion, however, needs the signature of at least 50 MPs and a 14-day notice. The Congress, at present, has 51 MPs in the Lok Sabha. The Budget session is scheduled to end on April 6.

Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha was adjourned within seconds of assembling in the morning at 11 a.m. as Congress MPs S. Jothi Mani and Ramya Haridas tore order papers and threw them towards the Speaker's chair. Another Congress MP T.N. Prathapan hurled a black scarf but it was blocked by a marshal.

The Opposition MPs trooped into the Well shouting slogans on the Adani issue. Some of them were also seen carrying placards.

When the House reconvened at 2 p.m., similar scenes were witnessed as the Opposition rushed to the Well demanding a probe by a joint parliamentary committee into the Adani issue.

Papers listed for the day were laid on the table of the House amid the ruckus. Bihar MP Rama Devi, who was in the Chair, adjourned the House for the day.

Congress, Uddhav's party patch up after Pawar intervention

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president Sharad Pawar has intervened to rescue the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance in Maharashtra after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark on V.D. Savarkar created fissures between the Congress, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction and the NCP.

Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut is said to have spoken to Mr. Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday to iron out the differences.

Sources said a plan to convene a meeting of top leaders of like-minded parties is also on the cards to take forward the Opposition unity that has been forged over Mr. Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha.

Sources said Mr. Pawar, while attending Mr. Kharge's dinner for Opposition leaders on Monday evening, made it clear that the repeated attacks on Savarkar creates unease among the MVA allies as he is a revered figure in Maharashtra who was never part of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

He pointed out that their political fight was against the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Narendra Modi government.

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Mr. Gandhi were present at the meeting along with leaders of the Opposition parties. Mr. Gandhi told the leaders that though his ideological position on the Savarkar issue is "firm", he is willing to "mellow" down his position if it creates problems for the allies.

"Last night, there were 18 parties [at Khargeji's residence] and today we are 19 parties together and that includes Shiv Sena," Congress comunications chief Jairam Ramesh said.

BJP's electoral wins making Opposition jittery: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday linked the Opposition's attack on his government to the BJP's emphatic electoral performances. He said the more the party registers victories, the more jittery the Opposition will become, leading to harsher attacks.

He was addressing a meeting of the BJP's Parliamentary Party here.

Mr. Modi said that he had already mentioned in his speeches earlier, especially after the BJP's massive victory in Gujarat and the northeastern States, that the Opposition attacks would get harsher, an MP present at the meet said.

India to host meeting of security advisers from SCO countries

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday will host a meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which will be attended among others by Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Nikolai Patrushev.

The meeting will be chaired by NSA Ajit Kumar Doval and will be attended in person by several high-level delegates from the Central Asian Republics. Diplomatic sources have confirmed that China and Pakistan will participate in the meeting virtually.

Mr. Doval, who has emerged as one of the core negotiators between India and Russia in the backdrop of the Ukraine war, has engaged Mr. Patrushev multiple times over the last year since the beginning of the Russian campaign in February 2022.

The meeting is part of the preparatory meetings for the SCO summit that will be held in India this year.

Wednesday's meeting is expected to take up the developments in Afghanistan and also help in advancing consultations on Russia's plans for the Eurasian economic bloc. The SCO consists of Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan.

After notice, Rahul agrees to vacate residence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was served a notice to vacate his 12 Tughlak Lane bungalow following his disqualification from the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi on Tuesday in a letter to the House Secretariat said that he would abide by the notice.

"Without prejudice to my rights, I will, of course, abide by the details contained in your letter," Mr. Gandhi wrote. Though he mentioned his rights in the letter, his legal team is yet to file an appeal at the sessions judge court in Surat.

Slamming the Centre over the eviction notice, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said, "They will do everything to weaken him [Rahul Gandhi]. He can go and live with his mother or he can come to me... I condemn this attitude of the government to threaten, scare and humiliate".

Though Congress leader mentioned his rights, his legal team is yet to file an appeal in court

On Tuesday, however, the party stepped up its street protest as it attempted to take out the *Loktantra Bachao Mashal Shanti* march from the Red Fort to the Town Hall in Chandni Chowk. Several leaders, including MPs, were detained by the Delhi Police, as they were prevented from taking out the march.

"The Delhi Police are stopping us from taking out the *Loktantra Bachao Mashal Shanti* march from Red Fort, and did not allow us to reach the venue! However, this has not deterred us, and we have begun our march from the police barricades itself," Congress secretary K.C. Venugopal said.

He also announced a series of protest programmes, including a postcard campaign where Youth Congress leaders will send postcards to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking questions about his relationship with Gautam Adani.

UNIDENTIFIED DEADBODY

An un-identified person aged about 40 years was seen hanging on the iron wire of the grill on the upper part of the wall on the west side of the quarters of Ramavarmapuram Kendriya Vidyalaya and he died on 03.03.2023 at 00.40 hours and the dead body kept at MCH Thrissur mortuary. In the regard, a case was registered at Viyyur Police Station as Crime No. 229/2023, U/S 174 Crpc. If any information about this person please inform the under mentioned officers' on their mobile numbers.

CONTACT NUMBERS

1. ACP Thrissur, Office: 0487 2424194, Mob: 9497990087.
2. ISHO Viyyur P.S, Office: 0487 2327502, Mob: 9497980570.

RO/00763/F2/2023/I&PRD

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/119-126/2022-2023, **JJM - Malappuram District –** Providing Distribution system and FHTCs and allied works to Karulai, Edakkara, Vazhikadavu, Amarambalam GPs. Construction of OHSRs, RWPM and allied works at Keezhattur and Kuttipuram. KIIFB – Kondotty Municipality construction of OHSRs, supply, laying distribution, GWPM, supply erection and commissioning of Pumpset and allied works.
EMD : Rs. 200000 to 500000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 11025-16540, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 19-04-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 04832974871, Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-1974-2022-23 — Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Malappuram

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/KKD/134/2022-23 1) Jal Jeevan Mission - WSS to Chathamangalam and adjoining 7 Panchayaths - Providing Functional Household Tap Connections in Puthuppadi Panchayath - Zone 4 - Eduthuvechakallu area, **EMD :** Rs. 200000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 11025+(1985) GST, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 19-04-2023 04:00:pm, **Phone :** 04952371046, **Website :** www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kozhikode
KWA-JB-GL-6-1975-2022-23

ODISHA ADARSHA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN
N-1/9, NAYAPALLI, PO. - SAINIK SCHOOL, BHUBANESWAR - 751005

INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT NO. 02/2023

Recruitment to the posts of Principals and Teachers in the Odisha Mining Adarsha Vidyalayas (OMAVs) in the State of Odisha.

Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangathan (OAVS), under the School & Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha invites online applications from the prospective candidates for filling up 45 posts of Principals and Teachers of different disciplines in Odisha Mining Adarsha Vidyalayas(OMAVs) by direct recruitment. Interested candidates are required to apply online through website **www.oav.edu.in** at the link available on this website. The candidates should ensure that they fulfill the eligibility criteria and other terms & conditions stipulated in the advertisement before applying online for the posts. No other means / modes of submission of applications will be accepted. Interested applicants are advised to visit the website regularly for further instructions / notice / updates in this regard.

IMPORTANT DATES

Opening Date for online registration of applications.	01 / 04 / 2023
Last Date for Completion of Online Registration.	30 / 04 / 2023 17:00 Hrs
Last Date of submission of Online Fee as applicable through Debit / Credit Card / Net Banking.	02 / 05 / 2023 23:45 Hrs

Sd/-
State Project Director, OAVS.
n-122 — OIPR-27029/11/0023/2223

Date of NIT: 17.03.2023

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY
Email: biddingcell@rajasthan.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)

In excercise of the powers conferred by Sub Section 2 of Section 11 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, its subsequent amendments and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rule, 2015 as amended from time to time notified there under, the Government of Rajsasthan has notified the following mineral block for the purpose of grant of mining lease for mineral magnesite and hereby invites bids in digital format only from eliigble bidders through electronic auction.

The details of mineral block and last date of submission of bid is as summarized below:-

S. No.	Block	Lease	Start Date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Last Date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Bid Due date and time
1	Selu Block n/v Selu & Bansliya Tehsil Badgaon district Udaipur for Magnesite	Mining Lease	17-03-2023	03-04-2023 upto 2400 Hrs. (IST)	21-04-2023 upto 1300 Hrs. (IST)

This block is being put up for first attempt of auction. The interested and eligible bidders, upon registration on MSTC website <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp> will obtain login ID and Password. After successful registration, the eligible bidder can purchase the Tender Document online on payment of the tender fee Rs. 2,00,000/- and can be participate in the e-auction process.

The GST at the rate of 18% is applicable on the purchase of tender document. The GST applicable is to be submitted by the prospective bidder itself and the copy of receipt is to be attached with the technical bid. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statuatory liability in this regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMGR/MSTC.

Detailed terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participation in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document and the Mineral Block Summary is available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from the webstie of MSTC Ltd, <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>; and Department of Mines & Geology <www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in> for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process are available on the website of <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>.

Any revision, clarificaions, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the above tender documents will be hosted on website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>; and <www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in> only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

Director
Department of Mines & Geology
Rajasthan, Udaipur
DIPR-4427

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

Short Term e-Auction Tender Notification (Through e-procurement Platform)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited invites auctions through e-auction platform from eligible bidders for **e-Auction of Scrap materials available at various Divisional Stores of BESCOM.**

Sl. No.	Auction No.	Name of the Material	Date of Imspection of Bidders	Last date to confirm intention to participate in the e-Auction	Date of e-Auction
1	BESCOM/ 2022-23/ Auction No. 528	Scrap Aluminum items	30.03.2023 to 06.04.2023 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	13.04.2023 16:00 Hrs	26.04.2023 from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.
2	BESCOM/ 2022-23/ Auction No. 529	Scrap released ACSR Conductor			26.04.2023 from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 PM
3	BESCOM/ 2022-23/ Auction No. 530	Scrap Iron items			26.04.2023 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
4	BESCOM/ 2022-23/ Auction No. 531	Scrap T&P Materials & Vehicles and Vehicle Parts.			27.04.2023 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Bidding documents can be downloaded from **30.03.2023** through e-procurement portal from the web site **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register in the e-procurement portal. Further bidders can take the assistance of the e-procurement help desk at **+91-8046010000 +91-8022631200.**

Sd/- The General Manager (Ele.), Procurement,
BESCOM, 4th Floor, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560 001,
Ph.No: 080- 22354939, Fax: 080-22352485.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

Telangana State Medical Services & Infrastructure Development Corporation, Director of Health Campus, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad -95, Telangana State

Tender Notice No.19/2022/Medicine/MW/TSMSIDC, Dt.27.03.2023

Above mentioned tender is invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement and supply of following under Rate contract for a period of Two Years:-**T.No. 19**:-Medicines, Managing Director, TSMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details please visit Web site: **https://tender.telangana.gov.in** from **30.03.2023** onwards.

R.O. No. : 1457-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Date: 28-03-2023 Sd/- Managing Director

KPC GAS POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Subsidiary unit of KPCL)
Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant
CIN: U40102KA1996SGC020337

No.: KPCL/2022-23/AUCTION247 Date: 25.03.2023

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TENDER
ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through GOK e-Procurement platform website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from the qualified Bidders for the Auctioning of DG Power Plant M/s SEMT Pielstic Engines spares (21.32MW x 6 units) (Mechanical, Electrical and Instrumentation) and local spares in stores on "as is where is basis" available at KPCGPCL, YCCPP store, Yelahanka, Bangalore only. Last date to confirm participation of interest and document uploading in e-Auction **10.04.2023 at 17.30Hrs**. E.M.D: **Rs. 5,20,000/-.** Further details can be had from office of the **Superintending Engineer (Mechanical)/YCCPP, Ananthapura Gate, Doddaballapur Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru- 560064,** Contact No. : **94806 82812 / 97409 13570.**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
File No-C-IIM-IFB-06/2019 No.12348 Dtd.24.03.2023
1st Corrigendum Bid Identification No.CE-DPI & R-44/2022-23

The following changes are made to the works invited vide Bid Identification No.CE-DPI & R-44/2022-23 vide letter No.10681 dtd.15.03.2023.

1. The Bid documents will be available in the website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from **10.00 AM of 31.03.2023 to 5.30 PM of 19.04.2023** for online bidding.
2. Bids shall be received only on "on line" on or before **5.30 PM of 19.04.2023**.
3. Bids received on line shall be opened at **11.30 Hours on 20.04.2023** in the office of the Engineer-in-Chief (Civil), Nirmana Saudha, Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer, DPI & Roads, Odisha.
B-1405 : — OIPR-34111/11/0108/2223

Mail ID : sepwdbalangir@gmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, BALANGIR (R&B) CIRCLE, BALANGIR
e-Procurement Notice - BID IDENTIFICATION No.CCE(R&B) BGR/19/2022-23
Letter No.1637 // Dtd.24.03.2023

The **Chief Construction Engineer, Baslangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate **composite** bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of works detailed in the table below from **A Class** Contractors registered with the State Governments and contractors of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for execution of Civil works. The proof of registration from the appropriate authority shall be enclosed along with the bid.

1.	Nature of Work	: **Building Work**
3.	No. of tender	: **Building works - 1 no.**
4.	Tender Cost	: **Rs.10,000/-**
5.	Class of Contractor	: **A Class**
6.	Date & Time of sale & Receipt of Bids	: From **Dt.04.04.2023, 10.00 A.M.** to **Dt.19.04.2023 up to 05.00 P.M.**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	: **Dt.20.04.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **http://tendersorissa.gov.in.** All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE MODE only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Balangir (R&B) Circle, Balangir.
B-1400: — OIPR-34131/11/0027/2223

INBRIEF

Govt. circumspect over plan to introduce Gir lions in Kuno

Introducing lions from Gir in Gujarat into Kuno National Park may create tension between the pride and the cheetahs imported in the past few months from Namibia and South Africa, the government told the Supreme Court on Tuesday. The government said it needs six months to re-examine whether members of the Asiatic lion population "thriving" in Gir need to be translocated to Kuno in Madhya Pradesh. "In order to provide the cheetahs a stress-free environment for successful establishment of the founder populations, it is not appropriate to introduce one more large carnivore species [lions] in the area immediately," the government said in an affidavit.

'Medical students in Ukraine, China may finish their course'

A government-appointed committee chaired by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has placed before the Supreme Court a "one-time option" for medical students who have returned from war-torn Ukraine and China in their penultimate year of studies and continued their education through online classes. The committee has proposed that students may be offered a single chance to clear the MBBS Final, both theory (Part I) and practical (Part II) examinations as per the National Medical Commission (NMC) syllabus and guidelines without being enrolled in any of the existing Indian medical colleges or universities.

Dalit Christians, Muslims hold demonstration for SC status

The National Council for Dalit Christians (NCDC) and allied Dalit Christian and Dalit Muslim bodies on Tuesday held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, seeking the inclusion of Dalit Christians and Muslims in the Scheduled Castes list. The NCDC also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office, demanding that the government resolve the long-standing issue. "After Easter, we have planned to send delegates to five regions of the country to gather support and spread awareness about the conditions we live in," E.D. Charles, national adviser of the NCDC, told *The Hindu*.

Rahul's expulsion: campaign for defending the Opposition

Expressing concern over the expulsion of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from the Parliament and his conviction in a defamation case, 1,000 teachers, artists, engineers, advocates, scientists, professors, doctors, homemakers, journalists, researchers, businessmen, retired civil servants, students, writers, filmmakers, cultural workers and members of the civil society from across the country have appealed to people to defend Opposition to save democracy. In a statement titled, 'Defend Parliamentary Democracy', they raised questions about the manner in which the democracy is being run today.

Prices of essential medicines set to see a hike from April 1

Painkillers, anti-infection drugs, cardiac drugs, antibiotics to get dearer; surge brought on by a sharp rise in Wholesale Price Index; pharma body cites annual change of 12.12% in WPI in 2022

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Prices of 384 essential drugs and over 1,000 formulations are set to see a hike of over 11%, due to a sharp rise in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

The price surge to set in from April 1 will mean that consumers have to pay more for routine and essential drugs, including painkillers, anti-infection drugs, cardiac drugs, and antibiotics.

Annual hikes in the prices of drugs listed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are based on the WPI.

In its communication dated March 25, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority said the annual change in WPI was 12.12% for the calendar year 2022. Last year, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) announced a 10.7% change in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

Major rise: Annual hikes in the prices of drugs listed in the National List of Essential Medicines are based on the WPI. FILE PHOTO

Every year, the NPPA announces a change in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in accordance with the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 2013, or DPCO, 2013.

'To ensure supply'

A senior Health Ministry official said that the price hike was to ensure that there would be no shortage of medicines in the market, and that manufacturers and consumers mutually benefit. "Manufacturers will not sell at a loss and we must ensure a steady supply of essential medicines in the country. Additionally, the prices are allowed to rise in a controlled manner," he said.

The source added that previously when a 10% hike was allowed, several manufacturers kept the rate under 5% because of market forces. "We are expecting a similar trend with this hike as well," he added.

Malini Aisola, co-convener of the All India Drug Action Network, a group that works to promote affordable healthcare, expressed concern that the new WPI would trigger increases in the ceiling prices under the DPCO provisions for fixing prices for scheduled formulations.

"The increase is the highest seen since the DPCO 2013 came into force and this is the second year in a row that the WPI is higher than the annual permitted price hike for non-scheduled formulations (10%). Because such a drastic hike will distort the price control in place on essential medicines, the government should intervene in the interest of maintaining the affordability of these drugs. Such high back-to-back price increases are undermining the purpose of price fixation of essential medicines," she added.

Poor quality drugs: govt. cancels licence of 18 pharma firms

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Centre inspected 76 pharma firms and 26 of them were served a show-cause notice

Following a massive nationwide crackdown on spurious and sub-standard medicines, the licences of 18 pharma companies have been cancelled and some firms have been directed to stop manufacturing on the account of poor-quality medicines.

Earlier this month, the Centre inspected 76 pharma companies and 26 of them were served a show-cause notice. The majority of the companies were operating in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

A Health Ministry source said that there has been a cancellation of product permission of three companies. This was phase-1 of the campaign wherein 203 pharma companies were identified and action was taken on 76 companies.

"A joint team of the Central and State governments conducted the inspection and the special drive is aimed at stopping the production of adulterated drugs and ensuring good manufacturing norms compliance," said the official.

Last month, Gujarat-based Zydus Lifesciences recalled from the U.S. market over 55,000 bottles of generic medication used to treat gout, after it had failed impurities specifications. Besides, Marion Biotech Pvt. Ltd.'s cough syrup and Global Pharma Healthcare's EzriCare artificial tears eyes drops were indicated to be sub-standard.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in October last year, warned against the four cough and cold medicines manufactured by Sonepat-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals – Promethazine Oral Solution, Kofexmalin Baby Cough Syrup, Makoff Baby Cough, Syrup and Magrip N Cold Syrup. These were identified as "sub-standard products".

Students with Type 1 diabetes be given proper care: NCPCR

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has written to the Chairpersons/Secretaries of Education Boards of all States and Union Territories, stating it is the duty of schools to ensure that children with Type 1 diabetes (T1D) are provided with proper care and required facilities.

In its letter, the NCPCR said it had taken cognisance of the petitions it received from parents of the children diagnosed with juvenile diabetes or T1D in the country. T1D is diagnosed in childhood or adolescence as a condition where the pancreas produces little or no insulin.

In 2017, the CBSE issued a circular allowing children with T1D in Classes X and XII to carry certain eatables with them to the board examination hall, to prevent occurrence of hypoglycaemia or low sugar episodes. The NCPCR chair Priyank Kanungoo says that more such concessions should be granted to all children with T1D in schools.

As per the note, a child with T1D who requires a mid-afternoon snack should be permitted by the class teacher to consume it. Those writing exams may be allowed to carry medicines, snacks and water with them, a glucometer and glucose testing strips to test blood sugar and continuous/flash glucose monitoring devices or insulin pumps. In fact, the NCPCR appeals to States that in case a smart phone is required to monitor sugar levels, it should be allowed and can be held by the invigilator in the hall.

This is a huge step in the right direction, says V. Mohan, chairman at Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre. "Children with T1D are discriminated against so much. An episode of hypoglycaemia while writing an exam might have an impact on the child's life."

Australian technology may help generate power from defunct gold mines in KGF

Jacob Koshy
WOLLONGONG, AUSTRALIA

An Australian renewable-energy company's unique scheme to generate electricity may resuscitate the fortunes of one of India's iconic but defunct gold mines, namely the Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), in Karnataka.

A hiccup that makes renewable energy unreliable, from solar or wind power, is that there is no power during nights or windless days. Green Gravity's idea is to address this challenge by relying on low-tech gravity.

Their plan is to find defunct mines, which often go hundreds or even thousands of metres deep, and haul a 'weighted block' – this could be as much as 40 tonnes – up to the top of the mine shaft using renewable power during the day when such power is available. When backup power is required, the heavy block will fall, under gravity, and the ensuing momentum will power a generator via a connected shaft. The depth to which the block can slip can be determined via a braking system, thus giving control on the amount of power that can be produced. The same principle underlies the 'pumped hydropower' storage.

Digging deep: Some of the KGF's deepest mines run nearly 3,000 metres. FILE PHOTO

Using weighted blocks means that decommissioned mines can be put to use and the environmental costs and challenges of moving water up can be avoided, Mark Swinnerton, founder and CEO, Green Gravity, told *The Hindu*. "By using gravity as the fuel, we dispense with consuming the critical water, land, and chemicals which other storage technologies rely on." He added, "At mines such as at Kolar, you can produce up to 100 or even thousands of megawatt-hours of power."

(The writer is in Australia, courtesy the country's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

Now, India to estimate TB burden using own system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has become the first country in the world to estimate the tuberculosis (TB) burden in-country and launch its own mathematical system to estimate the disease burden.

It has opted to step away from the global estimates drawn up each year by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Health Ministry noted that as per this data, the global TB reduction numbers stand at 11% while the reduction in TB cases in India is 18%. "This model was constructed based on the natural history of diseases, individual status of infection, disease, healthcare seeking, missed or correct diagnosis, treatment coverage and outcomes including cure and death," said a senior Health Ministry official.

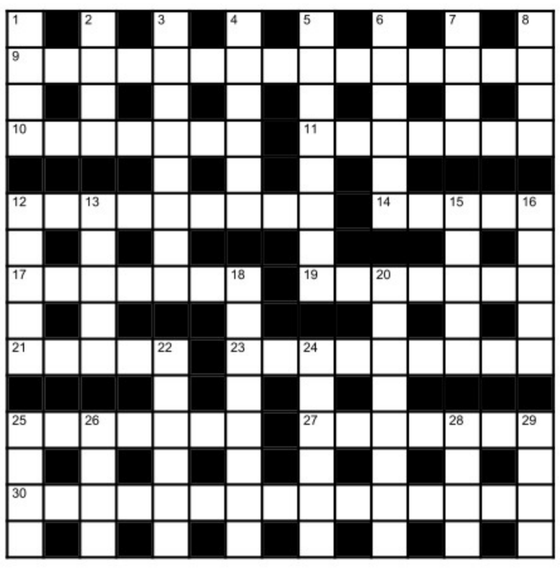
The Ministry added that India's TB incidence rate stands at 196 per 1,00,000 population, instead of the 210 estimated by the WHO.

TH CROSSWORD + 13825

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Game played by Beijing Airport security? (7,8)
10 Minute tear at the edges stops sail flapping in wind (7)
11 Secure line to hold uniform in washing (7)
12 Finally crack math problem with university's capital (9)
14 Cook pasta or light snacks (5)
17 A bit of mushroom in pizza, say - not hot pepper (7)
19 Quarantine taxis Ola temporarily parks inside (7)
21 Could be a lot closer to a lion's claw! (5)
23 Separate dirt from trifle (6,3)
25 Bottle thrower (7)
27 Start to talk about rings like novel author (7)
30 Very small amount of what a scuba diver may want? (1,4,2,3,5)

Down

1 Scheme conning average man, basically! (4)
2 Prejudice oddly seen in Brit also (4)
3 Say, gondolier's cheerful supporter, per Spooner (8)
4 Cook often covering large non-stick surface (6)
5 Snack service in India's massage retreat (8)
6 Sex after a conservative queen becomes free (6)
7 Persuade courier to take book for son (4)
8 Cycle right outside parking spot (4)
12 Kilometre over a place's gone (5)
13 Dog biting master's tongue (5)
15 Starting from Paris, the French essentially stop philosopher (5)
16 Writer entering empty set, exhausted (5)
18 Cancelled European band's subscription (8)
20 Forget to supervise (8)
22 Broken mobile phone stores nothing (2,4)
24 Cool it! Chill..Have some fruit (6)
25 Request and switch sides in game (4)
26 Basically tournaments use really fresh grass (4)
28 Judgement of advocate initially taken down (4)
29 Nobody listened to sister (4)

SUDOKU

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No.SS5752 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

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H	A	M	M	E	R		B	U	N	G	A	L	O	W
	N		P		I		D		A		H		S	
M	O	P	E	D	S		U	N	T	W	I	S	T	S
	R		R		I		C		I		M		I	
H	A	Z	E	L	N	U	T		V	I	S	H	N	U
	K		D		G		S		E		A		G	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	9	2	8	7	5	3	6
7	8	2	6	3	5	1	4	9
5	3	6	4	1	9	2	8	7
6	9	8	1	5	4	7	2	3
1	5	7	8	2	3	6	9	4
3	2	4	9	7	6	8	1	5
9	4	1	7	6	8	3	5	2
2	7	3	5	9	1	4	6	8
8	6	5	3	4	2	9	7	1

FAITH

Rama, ocean of good traits

"*Ramo vigrahavan dharmaha, dharmo vigrahavan rama*", Lord Rama is personification of dharma. His looks, character and conduct mesmerised everyone, swept everyone off their feet. He exemplified satya and dharma, the practice of which will help to attain moksha, as evidenced by jatayu moksham, said Dhamal Perundevi in a discourse. Narada wanted Valmiki to name a man with all 16 ideal characteristics, and the sage introduces us to Rama. He embodies all the virtuous qualities – devoid of jealousy, not given to anger, educated, capable of forgiving enemies, courageous, steadfast of mind, exemplar of gratitude, obedience where warranted as shown by him. When he realised his father wanted him to go to the forest, he obediently left. Subsequently, when Bharata and his entourage coaxed him to return to the kingdom, he refused, since *pithru vakya paripalanam* was very important to him. Born as a ruler, he treated everyone as an equal: he embraced boat man Guha as his brother, saying *Aaivar anom* (We are five brothers now). Likewise. He took Sugreeva, as well as Vibhishana, the rebel brother of Ravana, into his family, telling Vibhishana, we are seven brothers now. He is known as *Sarva Guna Adhipathi*.

If anyone rendered small help, he would mention it constantly, if anyone insulted him, he would throw it out of his mind. Sita tells Ravana, "You better surrender to Rama. Like a piece of wood thrown into ocean coming back to shore, he will treat your misdeeds as of no object and accept your saranagati". Rama is an ocean of good traits, he proves this time and again in his avatar and if you surrender to Him, those misdeeds of yours will get negated.

PARIS

West's Ukraine response exposes 'double standards': Amnesty report

AP

Outrage over Russia's invasion of Ukraine has exposed the West's "double standards" towards human rights abuses, Amnesty International said on Tuesday. In its annual world report, it pointed to the West's silence on Saudi Arabia's rights record, repression in Egypt and Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. AFP

LONDON

Britain's *The Guardian* apologises for founders' slavery connections

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The owner of *The Guardian* apologised on Tuesday for the role of its founders in transatlantic slavery and announced a "decade-long programme of restorative justice". The "academic review" discovered its main founder John Edward Taylor and many of his financial backers had links to slavery, the newspaper said. AFP

PARIS

France faces new strike as Macron remains defiant over pension plan

AFP

France faced another day of strikes and protests on Tuesday with a record number of police deployed as President Emmanuel Macron remained defiant over a pensions reform. The day of action is the 10th such mobilisation since protests started in mid-January against the law, which includes raising the retirement age to 64. AFP

LONDON

British workers plan mass strike over inflation in late April: union

AP

The U.K. faces a day of mass strike action by civil servants and public workers in late April, a union has announced. Millions of British people are suffering a cost-of-living crisis as stubbornly high inflation erodes the value of wages, triggering huge industrial action as workers battle for significant pay increases. AFP

Fire at Mexico-U.S. border migrant centre kills 39

The National Migration Institute facility had at least 70 inmates; local authorities had recently rounded up street vendors, including foreigners, from the area and detained them at the centre

Agence France-Presse
CIUDAD JUÁREZ, MEXICO

At least 39 migrants died in a fire that broke out at an immigration detention centre in a Mexican city on the U.S. border, the Mexican government said on Tuesday. The fire broke out shortly before midnight at the National Migration Institute (INM) facility in Ciudad Juarez, prompting the mobilisation of firefighters and dozens of ambulances.

An AFP journalist saw forensic personnel remove a dozen bodies from the INM's parking lot, where several other bodies were laid and covered with blankets.

"The National Migration Institute (INM) of the Interior Ministry regrets the deaths – so far – of 39 foreign migrants, caused by a fire," an INM statement said.

Viangly, a Venezuelan migrant, outside an ambulance that carries her injured husband Eduard Caraballo. REUTERS

A rescuer, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorised to speak to the media, said there were about 70 migrants, mostly Venezuelans, at the centre.

Numerous migrants have been detained in the centre in recent days after local authorities rounded up street vendors, some of whom were foreigners, from the area.

A heavy military and national guard presence blanketed the site early on Tuesday.

Ciudad Juarez, which neighbours El Paso, Texas, is one of the border towns where numerous undocumented migrants seeking refuge in the United States remain stranded.

Fed up with the wait, hundreds of them attempted to storm an international bridge on March 13 but were blocked by U.S. agents.

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has been hoping to stem the record tide of migrants and asylum seekers undertaking often dangerous journeys organised by human smugglers to get to the U.S.

Mr. Biden proposed new restrictions on asylum seekers in February, hoping to stifle the rush of migrants to the southern border when COVID-related controls are lifted.

The new rules say migrants who arrive at the border and simply cross into the United States will no longer be eligible for asylum.

Xi hails West Asia thaw in call with Saudi Crown Prince

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese President Xi Jinping lauded what he called the easing of tensions in the West Asia during a call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Tuesday, state media reported. Beijing brokered an agreement between Tehran and Riyadh on March 10 to restore diplomatic ties following a seven-year freeze.

Long bitter rivals, Iran and Saudi Arabia have engaged in a series of proxy conflicts in the region.

In his first comments on the matter to be made public since the deal was struck, Mr. Xi said the dialogue promoted by China would "play a major role in strengthening regional unity and cooperation".

Boundary demarcation with China will happen soon, says Bhutan PM

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Bhutan hopes to complete the demarcation of territories with China in "one or two meetings", said Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering, indicating a resolution of boundary issues with Beijing could be expected soon. In an interview he gave to a Belgian newspaper in Brussels, Dr. Tshering also said that Bhutan is watching whether India and China could resolve their boundary issues as he hoped to discuss the issue over the Doklam trijunction, where the soldiers of the Indian Army and China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) faced off in 2017, "trilaterally". The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to comment on Tuesday on his remarks.

PM Lotay Tshering

"We do not encounter major border problems with China, but certain territories are not yet demarcated," Dr. Tshering told *La Libre* in an interview published this week.

"[Earlier this year], a Bhutanese delegation visited China and we are now awaiting the arrival in Bhutan of a Chinese technical team. After one or two more meetings, we will probably be able to draw a line," Dr. Tshering said, referring to the last round of talks in January 2023 in Kunming. Shortly after the talks in Kunming, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra had visited Thimphu.

When asked about reports that China has already built a number of villages on land claimed by Bhutan, Dr. Tshering dismissed them. "There is a lot of information circulating in the media about Chinese installations in Bhutan. We said categorically, there is no intrusion as mentioned in the media. This is an international border and we know exactly what belongs to us," he said.

Scottish House confirms Yousaf as First Minister

Agence France-Presse
EDINBURGH

Scotland's Parliament confirmed Humza Yousaf as the new First Minister on Tuesday, the day after he narrowly won the contest to succeed Nicola Sturgeon as Scottish National Party (SNP) leader. Mr. Yousaf, 37, who will be formally sworn in at a ceremony on Wednesday, becomes the youngest First Minister since devolution reforms created the Scottish Parliament in 1999, and the first Muslim leader of a government in western Europe.

Mr. Yousaf beat two SNP rivals on Monday to clinch the party's top job, vowing

Humza Yousaf

to rejuvenate its flagging pursuit of independence for Scotland. "We should all take pride in the fact that today we have sent a clear message that your colour of skin, or your faith, is not a barrier to leading the country we all call home," Mr. Yousaf said. Promising to be a leader "for all of Scotland", he pledged to "kickstart" a civic movement that would "ensure our drive for independence is in fifth gear".

In the hours before the vote, Ms. Sturgeon sent her formal letter of resignation to King Charles III, and left the First Minister's official residence in Edinburgh for the last time.

SNP leaders took pride in Scotland becoming the first democracy in western Europe to appoint a Muslim as leader.

"I think what it says about the U.K. is that we are a welcoming group of nations, and Scotland in particular," Stephen Flynn, the party's leader in the U.K. Parliament, said.

Myanmar dissolves Suu Kyi's NLD party

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

Myanmar's junta-stacked Election Commission announced on Tuesday that Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy Party would be dissolved for failing to re-register under a tough new military-drafted electoral law, state media said.

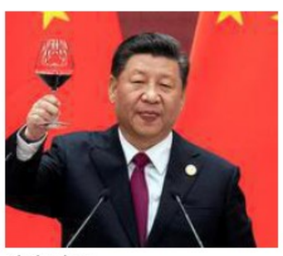
The NLD, which led to crushing victories over military-backed parties in elections in 2015 and 2020, will be "automatically cancelled as a political party" from Wednesday, said the *MRTV* broadcaster.

'China ramping up bailout packages to Pak., Sri Lanka and other BRI countries'

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China has handed out $240 billion worth of bailout loans to 22 developing countries at risk of default over the past two decades, with the trend accelerating in recent years, a report said on Tuesday.

Almost all the funds went to Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Turkey – mostly low- and middle-income nations that have received Chinese loans for infrastructure development, according to the study.



Xi Jinping

The 40-page report by the U.S.-based research lab AidData, the World Bank, the Harvard Kennedy School and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy showed bailout loans had accelerated between 2016 and 2021, with Beijing doling out 80% of its rescue lending in that period.

Around the world, BRI nations have come under strain as soaring inflation and interest rates, compounded by the lingering impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, have hurt their ability to repay debts.

China says more than 150 countries have signed up to the BRI, a trillion-dollar global infrastructure push unveiled by President Xi Jinping a decade ago.

Beijing says the initiative aims to deepen friendly trade relations with other nations. But critics have long accused China of luring lower-income countries into debt traps.

"China has developed a system of 'Bailouts on the Belt and Road' that helps recipient countries to avoid default, and continue servicing their BRI debts, at least in the short run," the report said.

In comparison to the International Monetary Fund and the vast liquidity support extended by the U.S. Federal Reserve, China's bailouts remain small but are growing quickly, according to the report.

INBRIEF

Walt Disney Co. begins 7,000 layoffs to 'streamline' business

Walt Disney Co. on Monday began 7,000 layoffs announced earlier this year, as it seeks to control costs and create a more "streamlined" business, according to a letter Chief Executive Bob Iger sent to employees and seen by Reuters. Several major divisions - Disney Entertainment, Disney Parks, Experiences and Products, and corporate - will be impacted, according to a person familiar with the matter. ESPN is not touched by this week's round of cuts. REUTERS

MosChip to acquire U.S.-based Softnautics for $17.25 million

Semiconductor and embedded design services and solutions firm MosChip Technologies has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire Softnautics Inc. for $17.25 million. The acquisition of the California-based Softnautics, with offices in Pune and Ahmedabad and focused on product engineering solutions in embedded design, FPGA and VLSI, will help MosChip in expanding geographically, including in the U.S. and result in broader access to talent pool, MosChip said.

Kotak arm raises $1.25 bn for second special situations fund

A Kotak Mahindra Bank arm announced it has raised $1.25 billion for its second special situations fund. The money raised will be deployed in equity, debt capital and hybrid instruments across sectors, a statement from Kotak Investment Advisors (KIA), the arm of the private sector lender, under which the fund comes, said. The overall targeted amount for the second fund, which will be domiciled in the GIFT City, is $1.6 billion. PTI

India urges G20 meet to find ways to reduce widening trade finance gap

Barthwal cites Asian Development Bank estimates showing the trade financing shortfall has risen to $2 trillion; Commerce Secretary emphasises need for cooperation among member countries to tackle the key issue, bats for faster digitalisation

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The first Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency started in Mumbai on Tuesday with Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal emphasising the need for trade finance cooperation among members to help reduce the widening trade finance gap.

"Trade finance gap is widening." Mr. Barthwal said, speaking at the International Conference on 'Trade Finance, organised by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) and India's EXIM Bank. "As estimated by ADB, the gap which was $1.5 trillion in 2018 has now increased to $2 trillion," he added.

Observing that it was the right time to discuss the issues facing trade finance, the Commerce Secretary underscored the importance of finding the right solutions.

Panelists discussed the role banks, financial institutions, development finance institutions, and export credit agencies could play to identify gaps and address challenges in trade finance amid the uncertain global trade landscape.

The need to accelerate digitalisation and the adoption of fintech solutions for improving access to finance, was also stressed.

"Digitalisation of international trade is possibly an effective solution towards achieving cost reduction in trade and trade finance," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement. "The challenges to be addressed in digitalising trade were identified as international cooperation in harmonising definitions, standards and data sharing across the borders digitally," it added.

Panelists recommended that all nations should endeavour to adopt enabling legislation in the next few years to achieve paperless international trade.

Mind the gap

India is pushing for greater cooperation among G20 member countries in addressing the growing shortfall in trade financing

- ADB estimates the global trade finance gap has increased to $2 trillion, from $1.5 trillion in 2018
- Commerce Ministry says faster digitalisation and adoption of fintech can help improve access to finance
- Panelists call for all nations to enact enabling legislation for achieving paperless international trade

Adani stocks resume their fall, Adani Enterprises slumps 7%

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Shares of Adani Group companies fell on Tuesday with flagship Adani Enterprises Ltd. slumping 7% on the BSE amid fresh concerns about debt repayment at the highly leveraged conglomerate.

Other group firms including Adani Green Energy, Adani Total Gas, Adani Power and Adani Wilmar all slid by the maximum permissible 5% as the lower circuit was triggered.

The group's cement makers also retreated with ACC falling 4.2%, while Ambuja dropped by 2.9%.

The Adani firms have suffered a combined erosion in market value of more than ₹80,000 crore over two sessions amid media reports flagging concerns about the repayment of debt.

On Tuesday, a report by online news portal The Ken raised doubts about the Adani Group's repayment of $2.15 billion of share-backed loans.

Following the report, the National Stock Exchange and BSE sought clarifications regarding the release of the group's pledged shares.

In a tweet, Adani Group CFO Jugeshinder Robbie Singh said that stock exchanges update data on promoter share pledges at the end of the quarter, and termed reports casting doubt as "deliberate misrepresentation", Press Trust of India reported.

IRDAI removes product-wise cap on commissions

N.Ravikumar
HYDERABAD

Insurance regulator IRDAI has removed the product-wise cap on commissions payable by Life, General and standalone health insurers to intermediaries and instead notified that such payments will come under the expense of management (EOM) limits.

The commission payable by insurers to insurance agents or insurance intermediaries should not exceed the EOM limits specified, IRDAI said, notifying the new regulations. Health insurance policies offered by Life and General insurance companies will also come under the ambit of the new regulations which come into force from April 1.

"The shift from product-level commissions to a company-wide limit of expenses, as proposed, will ensure parity across varying business models while rendering greater flexibility in managing expenses for insurers," Bajaj Allianz General Insurance MD and CEO Tapan Singhel said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	57,614	-0.07
US Dollar	82.14	0.21
Gold	58,750	-0.79
Brent oil	78.96	2.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	1600.85	-122.20
Adani Ports	593.40	-35.70
Apollo Hosp	4333.60	15.50
Asian Paints	2784.45	-19.30
Axis Bank	832.45	-0.90
Bajaj Auto	3791.60	-15.95
Bajaj Finserv	1223.15	-15.95
Bajaj Finance	5534.45	-58.60
Bharti Airtel	748.45	-13.30
BPCL	339.85	-5.00
Britannia Ind	4200.00	-14.80
Cipla	889.50	0.20
Coal India	208.90	0.50
Divis Lab	2806.45	-22.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4526.80	41.15
Eicher Motors	2852.40	-33.15
Grasim Ind	1611.10	-19.85
HCL Tech	1041.10	-10.40
HDFC	2580.15	18.25
HDFC Bank	1580.20	12.75
HDFC Life	489.70	-3.25
Hero MotoCorp	2249.50	-59.10
Hindalco	392.90	2.95
Hind Unilever	2482.80	-16.20
ICICI Bank	854.75	6.05
IndusInd Bank	1036.15	23.30
Infosys	1377.60	-11.35
ITC	379.75	-0.45
JSW Steel	660.00	1.15
Kotak Bank	1698.90	-6.30
L&T	2133.60	-20.40
M&M	1128.30	-9.60
Maruti Suzuki	8208.80	-69.55
NestleIndia	18946.00	55.00
NTPC	172.00	0.75
ONGC	147.20	-3.05
PowerGrid Corp	222.10	2.00
Reliance Ind	2248.00	10.45
SBI Life	1091.30	-8.00
State Bank	508.10	-2.05
Sun Pharma	984.20	0.75
TataConsumerProduct	696.05	-3.30
Tata Motors	401.60	-10.45
Tata Steel	102.50	0.20
TCS	3115.90	-6.40
Tech Mahindra	1070.30	-32.70
Titan	2500.30	5.90
UltraTech Cement	7403.10	-47.10
UPL	714.65	14.00
Wipro	356.20	-5.05

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 28

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.99	82.31
Euro	88.71	89.06
British Pound	100.92	101.32
Japanese Yen (100)	62.63	62.88
Chinese Yuan	11.91	11.96
Swiss Franc	89.39	89.75
Singapore Dollar	61.70	61.95
Canadian Dollar	59.93	60.19
Malaysian Ringitt	18.63	18.71
Australian Dollar	54.70	54.92

Source:Indian Bank

Austrian motorcycle firm KTM eyes 20% India growth in FY24

N. Anand
CHENNAI

The Indian arm of Austria's motorcycle manufacturer KTM is aiming at a significant double-digit growth in sales during FY24, according to Sumeet Narang, president, Probiking, Bajaj Auto Ltd. (BAL).

KTM, in collaboration with BAL, make several motorcycle models at the latter's facility in Pune.

"We expect the business to grow by 20%," he said during an interaction here. "Well, the market grows in spurts and it has been stable for last the few months.

Sumeet Narang

We have set an ambitious goal," he added.

In FY23, so far, KTM has sold about 50,000 units in India and will be closing the year with about 52,000 units. In FY22, the Austrian bike maker sold 51,000 units against 63,000 units in the year-earlier period.

New products

On new products, he said the company would be coming out with two to three variants of Adventure Duke 390 and Duke 250 series soon.

Regarding introduction of bigger motorcycles (greater than the 799 CC KTM 790 Duke), he said: "We have to look at traction and viability. Bringing a big bike is not the main thing. What is important for us is to launch something with the right experience for customers during sales and post sales."

Alibaba to split into six units, explore IPOs

Reuters

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. is planning to split its business into six main units covering e-commerce, media and the cloud, the company said on Tuesday, adding that each of the units will explore fundraising or initial public offerings.

U.S.-listed shares of Alibaba rose 3.5% in trading before the bell. The six units will include Cloud Intelligence Group, Taobao Tmall Commerce Group, Local Services Group, Cainiao Smart Logistics Group, Global Digital Commerce Group and Digital Media and Entertainment Group. Each of the six will be managed by its own CEO and board of directors. Daniel Zhang will continue to serve as chairman and CEO of Alibaba Group, which will follow a holding company management model, the company said.

Mr. Zhang will also serve as CEO of Cloud Intelligence Group, as previously announced.

News of the restructuring comes a day after founder Jack Ma was spotted at a primary school in Hangzhou, marking his first public appearance in mainland China in over a year.

India under fire at WTO for avoiding questions on MSP

Amiti Sen
NEW DELHI

India has come under fire at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) for avoiding questions raised by members on its minimum support price (MSP) programmes for food grains, particularly rice, where subsidies have breached prescribed limits. Some countries have alleged that India did not give sufficient replies to their concerns.

Members such as the U.S., Australia, Canada, the EU, and Thailand, said at a WTO agriculture committee meeting on Monday, **India is the first to invoke the Bali 'peace clause' to justify exceeding its subsidy ceiling** that India must reply to questions asked on its public stockholding (PSH) programmes at the committee, according to sources. "India, however, stuck to its guns and insisted that it provided the best possible information and clarifications at the consultations held with interested members based on available information," said a source.

India's MSP programmes are under scrutiny as it is the first country to invoke the Bali 'peace clause' to justify exceeding its 10% ceiling (of the total value of rice production) for rice support in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

While the 'peace clause' allows developing countries to breach the 10% ceiling without invoking legal action by members, it is subject to onerous conditions such as not distorting global trade and not affecting the food security of other members.

(The writer is with businessline)

Sport

Bibisara posts day's only win

WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

For the second successive day, Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva cruised to the day's lone victory and stayed ahead after three rounds of FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess here on Tuesday.

Vaishali gets a bye

K. Humpy and D. Harika were involved in drawn encounters while R. Vaishali enjoyed a bye.

The results (third round):
Koneru Humpy (1.5) drew with Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 1); Nana Dzagnidze (Geo, 1) drew with D. Harika (1.5); Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 2) bt Nino Batsiashvili (Geo, 0.5); Zhu Jiner (Chn, 1.5) drew with Polina Shuvalova (FIDE, 1); R. Vaishali 0, Aleksandra Gorchkina 1 (FIDE) bye.

Bibisara. TWITTER/FIDE_CHESS

Raiza, Angad miss semifinals narrowly

SHOTGUN WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Raiza Dhillon shot 114 and missed the semifinals by four points in women's skeet in the Shotgun World Cup in Larnaca, Cyprus, on Tuesday.

Raiza had a series of 23, 23, 24, 21 and 23. Parinaaz Dhaliwal (108) and Areeba Khan (105) placed 40th and 49th respectively in a field of 59 shooters.

In men's skeet, Olympian and world record holder Angad Vir Singh Bajwa shot 116 and placed 39th among 119 shooters.

He had a series of 24, 22, 24, 25 and 21, as he also missed the semifinals by four points.

Poor finish

Abhay Singh Sekhon (108) and Man Singh (105) finished 89th and 107th respectively. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) had opted to give exposure for the top six shooters in different World Cups.

Thus this was a different team to the one that competed in Doha, Qatar, earlier this month.

Sarran-Shirfule duo helps India edge New Zealand

ASIA-OCEANIA TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Prakaash Sarran and Shivtej Shirfule won the decisive doubles 7-5, 2-6, [10-6] against ZachaWu and Liam Youn to help India beat New Zealand 2-1 in the second league match of Group-C in the Asia-Oceania World Junior under-14 tennis tournament in Kuching, Malaysia, on Tuesday.

Reviving the chances

After Rudra Badham had lost the opening singles, Shivtej Shirfule had revived India's chances by winning the second singles.

India, which had lost to Chinese Taipei, will play fourth seed and group leader Hong Kong in the last league match on Wednesday. The top two teams from each of the four groups will make it to the quarterfinals.

The results (league):
India bt New Zealand 2-1
(Rudra Batham lost to Liam Youn 2-6, 4-6; Shivtej Shirfule bt Zachariah Wu 7-5, 6-4; Prakaash Sarran & Shivtej bt Zachariah Wu & Liam Youn 7-5, 2-6, [10-6]).

Aravindh joins Murzin in the lead

CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

The battle of generations involving teenage overnight leader Volodar Murzin and 59-year-old Michal Krasenkow ended in a draw and enabled Aravindh Chithambaram to share the lead at 7.5 points after eight rounds of the Delhi International Open chess tournament here on Tuesday.

Before the Murzin-Krasenkow game ended in 70 moves, Aravindh nailed Uzbekistan's Marat Dzhumaev in 38 moves. With two rounds to go, 15 players are at half-a-point behind the leaders.

Aravindh. FILE PHOTO

The results (eighth round):
Michal Krasenkow (Pol) drew with Volodar Murzin (FIDE, 7.5); Marat Dzhumaev (Uzb, 6.5) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (7.5); Neelash Saha (7) drew with Luka Paichadze (Geo, 7); Mikheil Mchedlishvili (Geo, 7) bt Mukhiddin Madaminov (Uzb, 6.5); K. Ratnakaran (6) lost to Levan Pantsulaia (Geo, 7); Boris Savchenko (FIDE, 7) bt L. Srihari (6); S. Aswath (6.5) drew with M.R. Lalit Babu (6.5); Anup Deshmukh (6) lost to Aleksej Alksandrov (FIDE, 7); Deepan Chakkravarthy (7) bt Karthi Rajarishi (6).

NEW INNINGS

Smith to don TV pundit's hat in 16th edition of IPL

Australia's Steve Smith will debut as a commentator at the upcoming IPL, broadcaster Star Sports revealed on Tuesday, ending the mystery about his return to the event. Smith had announced his return to the tournament on social media on Monday, posting a video: "Namaste, India. I've got some exciting news for you: I'm joining IPL 2023."

SOME CONSOLATION

Shadab stars as Pakistan denies Afghanistan clean sweep of series

Shadab came up with an all-round performance to guide Pakistan to a 66-run win in the third T20I in Sharjah on Monday.
The scores: Pakistan 182/7 in 20 overs (Saim Ayub 49, Iftikhar Ahmed 31, Shadab Khan 28) bt Afghanistan 116 in 18.4 overs (Shadab Khan 3/13, Ihsanullah 3/29). Afghanistan won the series 2-1.

SPOILSPORT

Rain washes out second ODI between New Zealand and Lanka

The second ODI between New Zealand and Sri Lanka in Wellington was abandoned on Tuesday because of rain. Heavy rain fell throughout the day and by the scheduled start of 2 p.m. local time, the covers were on and large pools of water already had formed in the outfield. New Zealand leads the three-match series 1-0.

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

Bianca Andreescu suffers injury blow at Miami Open

Former US Open champion Bianca Andreescu's return to form was cut short on Monday when the Canadian suffered a left ankle injury while attempting a return in her fourth round Miami Open match against Ekaterina Alexandrova. After receiving medical attention on court she was lifted into a wheelchair and taken off court in tears.

Playing at home again will have Super Kings raring to return to its pre-eminent position

Over the last three years, the team has had a topsy-turvy performance curve, winning the title in 2021 and finishing in the penultimate spot in 2020 and 2022

IPL-16 COUNTDOWN

S. Dipak Ragav

From 2008 to 2019, Chennai Super Kings was synonymous with consistency in the IPL. It was the only team which had qualified for all the playoffs in that period (it didn't figure in the competition in 2016 & 17), winning three titles. But over the last three years, the side has had a topsy-turvy performance curve, finishing in the penultimate spot in 2020 and 2022, and clinching the title in 2021.

All that wouldn't matter when M.S. Dhoni leads the Super Kings out at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on April 3. With the fans waiting for this moment for the past three years, it could well be one of the defining images of the season.

At the 2022 mega auction, CSK prioritised building a team with experience and assembled a squad suited for the spin-friendly conditions in Chepauk. It did not sign a quality Indian pacer except Deepak Chahar. Once he was ruled out of the tournament last year, CSK was left with an ineffective bowling attack as it was forced to rely on uncapped Indians. With Chahar back, Dhoni's men will hope that their ₹14-crore signing delivers.

Another reason for the disappointing campaign in 2022 was the poor run of the Indian cream of Ravindra Jadeja, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ambati Rayudu. A lot will depend on the trio, apart from Dhoni and all-rounder Shivam Dube, to power the batting unit.

On the overseas front, the four-time champion has opener Devon Conway, Moeen Ali and Ben Stokes to lend firepower. In Stokes, CSK might have also found a future leader. However, it should be wary of its line-up becoming left-hander heavy and getting exposed to off-spin.

All set: Dhoni will look to kick-start the season in style. R. RAGU

Most lethal weapon

The most lethal weapon for Super Kings is the Chepauk pitch. The Yellow Army has always maximised its home advantage on the surface aiding the tweakers, winning 40 of its 56 matches (71%) – the best for any team.

Last year, Maheesh Theekshana was the standout performer and the Sri Lankan spinner should relish bowling alongside Jadeja at the MAC Stadium.

With Dwayne Bravo hanging up his boots, CSK needs someone to bowl effectively at the back end. Fortunately, it was able to sign South African speedster Sisanda Magala, known for his death-bowling skills, as an injury replacement for Kiwi Kyle Jamieson. The challenge would be to accommodate him as the fourth foreign player. Super Kings will also expect at least one of the Indian quicks to step up.

This season could be the most important for the Men in Yellow as speculation is rife that it could be the final one for Dhoni, who has revealed that he wants to play his last game in Chennai.

If 2023 is Dhoni's last dance, bringing the IPL trophy back to his second home would be the most fitting way to end a glorious career.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Game-Changer

- The English all-rounder adds depth and much-needed firepower to the batting line-up as he can slip into top gear immediately
- Stokes will reunite with Dhoni and coach Stephen Fleming for the first time since 2017 when they were at Rising Pune Supergiant. Incidentally, it was his best season in the IPL with both bat (316 runs) and ball (12 wickets), and Super Kings will hope it can get the best out of the 31-year-old

THE DUGOUT

M.S. Dhoni (Capt.), Devon Conway, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ambati Rayudu, Subhranshu Senapati, Moeen Ali, Shivam Dube, Rajvardhan Hangargekar, Dwaine Pretorius, Mitchell Santner, Ravindra Jadeja, Tushar Deshpande, Mukesh Choudhary, Matheesha Pathirana, Simarjeet Singh, Deepak Chahar, Prashant Solanki, Maheesh Theekshana, Ajinkya Rahane, Ben Stokes, Shaik Rasheed, Nishant Sindhu, Sisanda Magala, Ajay Mandal and Bhagath Varma

- At the mini-auction last year, Chennai Super Kings shelled out a staggering ₹16.25 crores to acquire Ben Stokes

CHAMPION
2010, 2011, 2018, 2021

SUPER KINGS' 2023 FIXTURES

March 31	vs. GT	7.30 p.m	Ahmedabad
April 3	vs. LSG	7.30 p.m.	Chennai
April 8	vs. MI	7.30 p.m	Mumbai
April 12	vs. RR	7.30 p.m.	Chennai
April 17	vs. RCB	7.30 p.m.	Bengaluru
April 21	vs. SRH	7.30 p.m.	Chennai
April 23	vs. KKR	7.30 p.m.	Kolkata
April 27	vs. RR	7.30 p.m	Jaipur
April 30	vs. PBKS	3.30 p.m.	Chennai
May 4	vs. LSG	3.30 p.m.	Lucknow
May 6	vs. MI	3.30 p.m.	Chennai
May 10	vs. DC	7.30 p.m.	Chennai
May 14	vs. KKR	7.30 p.m.	Chennai
May 20	vs. DC	3.30 p.m.	Delhi

Stokes ready to start IPL as a pure batter, says Hussey

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

England Test captain Ben Stokes is set to begin the IPL only as a batter after having a cortisone injection in his troublesome left knee ahead of the Ashes, according to Mike Hussey.

The England and Wales Cricket Board medical staff have been working closely with their Chennai counterparts to manage Stokes' workload ahead of the five-Test Ashes series against Australia in England in June.

Super Kings batting coach Hussey, who worked with Stokes during England's victorious T20 World Cup campaign in November, said the all-rounder would be looked after in the latest edition of the IPL starting on Friday.

"The physios from Chennai and the ECB are working pretty closely together," Hussey told Britain's *PA* news agency and *ESPNcricinfo*.

"He (Stokes) is ready to go as a batter from the start, the bowling might have to wait. I know he had his first very light bowl this week since he had his injections in his knee. Hopefully, he will be bowling at some stage in the tournament," said Hussey.

Schutt all praise for BCCI's decision to strike pay parity

CRICKET

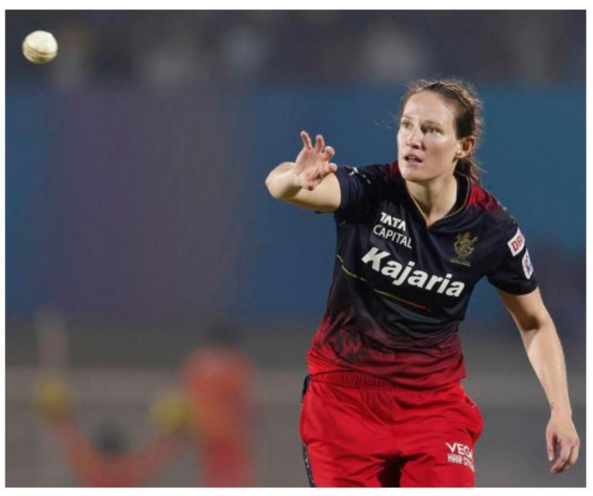
P.K. Ajith Kumar

Few women can swing the ball the way Megan Schutt does. She has been one of the reasons for the aura of invincibility about the current Australian women's team, having taken 236 wickets in international white-ball cricket, after making her debut in 2012.

Women's cricket has undergone a major transformation since those days. She is delighted that female players are now getting what they are due.

"The growth of women's cricket over the last 10 years is phenomenal," Schutt, who was in Mumbai for the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League in which she played for Royal Challengers Bangalore, told *The Hindu*. "I didn't think the WPL would happen in my time as a cricketer."

She recalled how marginalised women's cricket was when she started out. "We didn't have WBBL, we didn't have any of these leagues, we weren't making the paper, we were not professionals, we didn't have contracts that were well-paying," she said. "Having seen those times, I am probably a little more humble than the new kids who come through and jump straight into professionalism."



Good augury: The growth of women's cricket over the last 10 years is phenomenal, says Schutt. SPORTZPICS/WPL

There is one thing in cricket that still disturbs her: lack of equal pay. So she was delighted when the BCCI announced equal match fee to its centrally contracted male and female players.

"Full credit to the BCCI," Schutt said. "It is an incredible step. It takes courage to do that.

"That is what we have been striving for a very long time. We play the same game, albeit a bit differently at some times, we train as hard and we spend as much time on the road. India having equal pay for that is incredible and I hope it continues amongst other nations. The real goal is to have equal pay globally."

Schutt is glad to see the emergence of pace bowlers like India's Renuka Singh, her teammate at RCB, and her compatriot Darcie Brown.

She must be an inspiration for many young female pacers, but when she began bowling, women's cricket wasn't on television.

"Glenn McGrath, the Mr. Consistent, was my inspiration," she said.

Anjali made her opportunity count

P.K. Ajith Kumar

Back in November, Raipur hosted the senior Women's T20 Challenger Trophy. It was the last chance for the country's fringe players in their biggest season yet: the Women's Premier League, though not announced yet, was around the corner; the series against Australia and the T20 World Cup were closer.

Though she didn't take too many wickets, the left-arm seamer caught everyone's eye.

"How many years have you been playing cricket?" she was asked. "10," said the 25 year-old from Hyderabad, with a wistful smile.

Four months later, at a Mumbai hotel, Anjali Sarvani was smiling broadly. She had made her international debut in December, in the series against Australia, and was part of the Indian squad for the T20 World Cup in South Africa. She was also bought by UP Warriorz for the WPL.

"I never was as tense as I was during the auction," she said. "I desperately wanted to be part of a franchise. Money didn't matter. I was like 'take me for free.'" But Warriorz paid ₹55 lakhs for her. "I was excited to join Warriorz and be part of a team that had pacers like Shabnim Ismail whom I admired," said Anjali. "And I found how funny players like Alyssa Healy and Sophie Ecclestone were off the field."

Anjali. SPORTZPICS/WPL

Recalling the years she toiled away without recognition, she admitted that she was left wondering what to do. "I wasn't willing to give up. When my parents wondered if I had made the wrong career choice, I tried to convince them I hadn't."

Anjali was an athlete before switching to cricket. "I was a sprinter and long-jumper. I was planning a career in athletics but my father encouraged me to play cricket." She is glad she listened to him.

Australians love to hate Pujara, says Hazlewood

Big fish: Hazlewood says bowlers are eager to dismiss Pujara as he puts a price on his wicket. R.V. MOORTHY

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood feels the price Cheteshwar Pujara puts on his wicket makes him one of the most difficult batters to bowl to, and added that there is a "thrill" one gets after dismissing him.

Pujara recently completed a century of Test matches during the Border-Gavaskar series, and though he couldn't score big in the four matches, he still had some vital contributions.

The 35-year-old has more than 7,000 Test runs from 102 games, including 19 centuries and 35 half-tons.

Hazlewood, who is nursing a tendon injury which sidelined him during the Test series against India, added that Pujara is someone Australians "love to hate".

"It's a bigger thrill for the the bowlers (to dismiss Pujara). I think when you do end up getting his wicket, it means you have earned it," Hazlewood said on *RCB podcast* on Tuesday.

"It means you've put in a lot of hard work. Whether it is the fifth ball he (Pujara) faces... you've already bowled to him in the previous Test matches, you've earned that respect and you've earned that wicket," added Hazlewood, who was RCB's pace spearhead during IPL 2022, taking 20 wickets.

Hazlewood said that he had had some great tussles with the Indian stalwart, adding that he was a fantastic player.

"He's someone I've had some great tussles over the years, and, in particular, in Australia. He's someone Australians love to hate but he's a fantastic player and I guess that is part of Test cricket. When you do get him out, you've earned it," said Hazlewood, whose participation in IPL 2023 could be in doubt because of the tendon injury.

INBRIEF

France overcomes Ireland, Netherlands beats Gibraltar

France rode on Benjamin Pavard's strike to beat Ireland 1-0 in Dublin on Monday to win its second Euro 2024 qualifier in Group B, while Manchester City centre-back Nathan Ake scored twice as the Netherlands eased Gibraltar 3-0. In Group F, Sweden bounced back from a heavy opening defeat to Belgium by hammering Azerbaijan 5-0.

The results: Group B: Republic of Ireland 0 lost to France 1 (Pavard 50), Netherlands 3 (Depay 24, Ake 50, 82) bt Gibraltar 0; **Group E:** Moldova 0 drew with Czech Republic 0, Poland 1 (Swiderski 41) bt Albania 0; **Group F:** Austria 2 (Kainz 68, Gregoritsch 88) bt Estonia 1 (Sappinen 25), Sweden 5 (Forsberg 38, Mustafazade 65-og, Gyokeres 79, Karlsson 88, Elanga 89) Azerbaijan 0; **Group G:** Montenegro 0 lost to Serbia 2 (Vlahovic 78, 90+6), Hungary 3 (Vecsei 7, Szoboszlai 26, Adam 39) bt Bulgaria 0.

Bedabrate bags bronze at World Youth weightlifting

Indian weightlifter Bharali Bedabrate clinched the total and clean & jerk bronze medals in the men's 67kg section at the the IWF World Youth Championships in Durres, Albania on Monday.

Women's National football matches from today

The Group Six matches of the 27th senior women's National football championship will commence at the Bangalore Football Stadium in Bengaluru from Wednesday. Karnataka, Manipur, Gujarat, Assam and Bihar are the five teams that will be involved. The opening day will see Bihar take on Manipur (8 a.m.) and Gujarat meeting Karnataka (4 p.m.).

Sindhu drops out of top 10 in World badminton rankings

Having failed to defend her singles title at the Swiss Open, P.V. Sindhu has dropped out of the world's top 10 in the latest BWF rankings issued on Tuesday. The 27-year-old, who has a career-best ranking of No. 2 and has been in the top 10 since November 2016, has slipped two places to 11th spot. In men's singles, H.S. Prannoy was static at World No. 8, while K. Srikanth is 21st and Lakshya Sen 25th.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Jio Cinema App, 7.30 a.m.
Bangladesh vs Ireland: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

Jhingan and Chhetri's strikes power India to title triumph

Hosts beat Kyrgyzstan 2-0 in the summit clash; the shored-up defence keeps the visitors at bay, shot-stopper Gurpreet Sandhu's second-half performance being the icing on the cake

TRI-NATION FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
IMPHAL

India stuck to its attack plans well to outplay Kyrgyzstan 2-0 and lift the Tri-nation International Football competition title in style much to the delight of a packed Khuman Lampak Stadium here on Tuesday.

India, which had defeated Myanmar 1-0 in the first match on March 22, finished with the full quota of points after the win against Kyrgyzstan to emerge the champion.

Sandesh Jhingan opened the scoring late in the first half before Sunil Chhetri converted a penalty towards the end of the second half to complete India's win.

Ruling the roost: The Indian players are on cloud nine after emerging champions. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Composed defence

With the visitors, who needed a win to survive, pressing hard for an early lead, the Indian defence remained remarkably composed to hold the opposition well outside the striking zone.

The host made six changes to the side that started against Myanmar and brought in more experience in the defence with the likes of Jhingan, Anwar Ali and Pritam Kotal taking guard at the back.

India came into the game gradually and found the lead in the 34th minute when Bradon Fernandes cleverly set the ball deep into the Kyrgyz box.

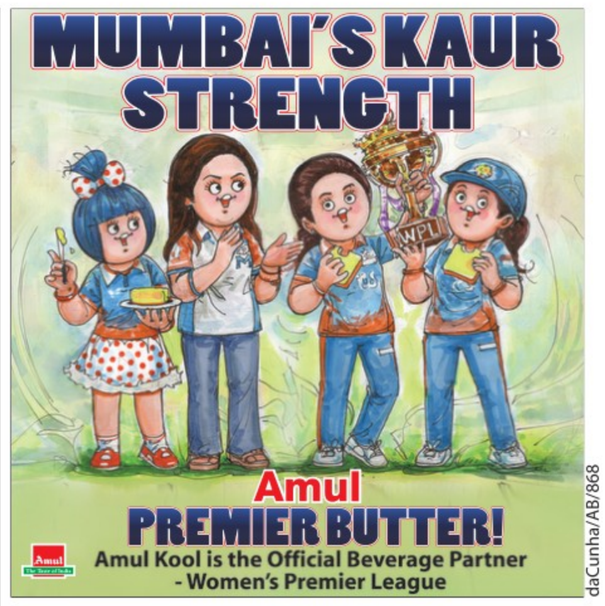
Jhingan judged it well and outran his marker in Kozubaev Tamirlan to volley home through the defences of the opposition goalkeeper Erzhan.

The lead put India psychologically on top of the Kyrgyz, who struggled to trouble the Indian goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu even for once in the opening half.

The change of ends saw the Kyrgyz resume their search for the equaliser and this time it was Sandhu making two good saves in the early minutes of the second half to keep the Indian lead intact.

India started growing into the match midway through the second half and found the insurance goal in the 84th minute when Chhetri scored his 85th international goal from the spot.

The result:
Kyrgyzstan 0 lost to India 2 (Jhingan 34, Chhetri 84-pen).



daCunha/AB/868

Clay, here I come!

Swinging again: Rafael Nadal at his academy in Mallorca, preparing to return to action on his beloved red after missing more than two months' tennis owing to a hip injury. TWITTER@RAFAELNADAL

Sreeja turned things around with grit, hardwork

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

A day after boxer Nikhat Zareen clinched a second World championship gold, fellow Hyderabadi, 24-year-old A. Sreeja retained the Senior national women's singles and doubles titles besides a team bronze in the mixed doubles in the Jammu & Kashmir Nationals in style.

And, it was never easy either for the star paddler or for the coach Somnath Ghosh, who has been guiding Sreeja since about 10 years of age at the one-room, single-table Global Table Tennis Academy in the City long back.

"Yes, we were definitely upset and even in a shock at the string of failures both at national and international level. More so as these coming in the year of Olympics qualification," Somnath told *The Hindu*.

Sreeja, right, with coach Somnath.

"Nothing seemed to be working out for her, often leading to self-doubt and desperation.

"And she started fumbling in the initial rounds of even national-ranking tournaments," she said.

What really hurt the successful coach-player duo was the slump in form followed the Commonwealth gold medal.

"We were at a loss to understand as to what was going wrong.

"Fortunately, Sreeja's parents Praveen Kumar and Sai Sudha and the sponsors CtrlS, UTT, Raheja and PWC were backing us to the hilt even in those trying times," the coach said while thanking TTFI general secretary Kamlesh Mehta and the TTTA secretary B. Nagender Reddy for always encouraging them.

Then the mantra for success?

"She was a little inconsistent on the backhand side because she always wants to play the forehand more.

"I asked her to keep her forearm strong while playing backhand and I asked to stand in the middle and play backhand and forehand equally," Somnath said.

"This worked wonders," said a delighted coach.

"Every tournament is crucial for Olympic qualification and Sreeja was obviously supposed to do well at all levels," he added. "Well, there were some minor health issues too which Sreeja had to sort out.

"And, we had to rework our strategies and as part of this effort, she worked with the Pune-based mental conditioning trainer Gayathri Varthak before the Jammu Nationals," Somnath said.

"The fact that she won crucial matches in the knockouts when facing elimination was really heartening.

"It was never easy to play the highest number of matches in the Jammu Nationals which again was possible because of the fitness trainer Hirak Bagchi," the proud coach said.

Keerthana claims youth 81kg gold

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

R.P. Keerthana of Tamil Nadu won gold in the youth 81kg category at the Khelo India Youth, Junior & Senior National-ranking women's weightlifting tournament being held here.

The results (winners all):
Senior: 87kg: Modhusmrita Baruah (Asm) 196kg.
81kg: Vansita Varma (Chd) 196kg.
76kg: Lalchhanhimi (Miz) 215kg.

Youth: 81kg+: Muskan (Har) 152kg.
81kg: R.P. Keerthana (TN) 170kg
76kg: M.A. Hasina Shrin (TN) 160kg.

Junior: 87kg: Aayushi (Guj) 171kg.
81kg: Swetalina Nayak (Odi) 162kg.
76kg: V. Sahithi (TS) 174kg.

Hirmer sizzles to be in the van

GOLF

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Germany's Michael Hirmer took the sole lead after a stellar eight-under 64 first round at The Challenge 2023 golf presented by KGA here on Tuesday.

Hirmer, who hails from Munich and is playing in his rookie season on the Challenge Tour, began with six birdies on the back-nine.

India's Divyanshu Bajaj shot an impressive seven-under 65 to sit in second place. Germany's Philipp Katich and England's Alex Fitzpatrick share second spot with Bajaj.

Bajaj had a memorable round, making a hole-in-one in the par-three 13th hole.

"It's been a long time since I shot such a low score. I was playing well and performing consistently on the PGTI till 2019 just prior to the onset of Covid. But thereafter I had some health issues due to which I struggled on the golf course. I've addressed the health problems with some changes in my lifestyle such as restrictions in my diet. These changes along with my self-belief have helped me get my game back on track," Bajaj said.

Hirmer. GETTY IMAGES

Kartik Sharma and Mari Muthu are in tied-fifth, two shots behind the leader.

The scores (top five): 64: Michael Hirmer (Ger); **65:** Philipp Katich (Ger), Divyanshu Bajaj (Ind), Alex Fitzpatrick (Eng).
66: Javier Sainz (Esp), Lars Van Meijel (Ned), Tom Vaillant (Fra), Mari Muthu (Ind), Kartik Sharma (Ind), Marco Penge (Eng), Ivan Cantero (Esp), Pep Angles (Esp).

Choosing all-time teams: why Bradman may always not make it

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Does cricket above all sports lend itself most often to such mental exercises as "the greatest Indian team of all time" or, to go one step higher, "the greatest-ever team of all time?"

Even Don Bradman – who is in everybody's all-time team – couldn't resist the temptation. In *The Art of Cricket* he talked about ideal elevens and such things as teams with players' names beginning with the letter 'H' (Hobbs, Hutton, Hammond etc) and other combinations. That book was published in 1958.

In 2001, *Bradman's Best*, a book about his all-time team caused as much interest as heartburn. Bradman saw his first Test aged 12; it was an Ashes contest (Australia v England) at Sydney in 1920-21. Bradman thus had an intimate knowledge of 20th century cricket (he died in Feb 2001 aged 92), apart from being deeply involved with it as player, administrator and writer.

The Don's list

Here's Bradman's list: Barry Richards, Arthur Morris, Don Bradman, Sachin Tendulkar, Garry Sobers, Don Tallon, Ray Lindwall, Dennis Lillee, Alec Bedser, Bill O'Reilly, Clarrie Grimmett. His great contemporary Wally Hammond was 12th man.

There are seven Australians in the team, and one each from the West Indies, India, England and South Africa. Choosing all-time teams is always fun and frequently contro versial.

Teams have been chosen based on ICC rankings, on 'all format records', on being 'masters of all conditions'.

Bradman apart, I would imagine that Garry Sobers would make it to most teams whatever the description.

In *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Century, there were no real surprises: Bradman, Sobers, Jack Hobbs, Shane Warne and Viv Richards.

All this talk of all-time teams has been inspired by the *Daily Telegraph*'s recent choice (made by its readers) of the greatest-ever cricket team. It has both Gavaskar and Tendulkar; Adam Gilchrist is the wicketkeeper.

Picking Trumper

Most cricket romantics would have picked Victor Trumper from among the list of openers (Jack Hobbs was named as Gavaskar's partner), although he played his last Test in 1912 and died tragically young at 37 three years later.

Gideon Haigh wrote thus of him, "He formed part of a profound moral and aesthetic revaluation of cricket, an awakening to its potential beauties, an invitation to appreciations deeper than runs and wickets, victory and defeat."

But how do you choose a team without having watched any of its players perform? Trumper lives on in the writings of his contemporaries, in the story of the leg spinner Arthur Mailey who, upon dismissing him in a match wrote later: "I felt like a boy who had killed a dove".

> Sports would be the poorer if greatness were calculated only in numbers.

He lives on in the iconic photograph – "stepping out to drive" by George Beldam, and in such as the Englishman Neville Cardus's famous prayer: "Please god, let Victor Trumper score a century out of an Australian all-out score of 124."

It is difficult not to be carried away by the writings of both those who knew and watched Trumper as well as those who didn't. He played just 48 Tests and averaged 39 with an abandon and joy that communicated itself to the spectators. On bad tracks (wickets were uncovered in his time), he batted with a mastery not approached by anyone else including Bradman.

So would you pick Trumper in your eleven? Sports would be the poorer if greatness were calculated only in numbers. Or if all-time teams were picked based only on statistics. There is a greatness above the easily understood one of efficiency and risk-elimination. Every all-time team deserves players who wouldn't make it on figures alone.

But it is possible to hold a contradictory thought in your mind (as selector of all-time teams) whereby anyone you pick whom you have not watched play is a form of bad faith.

That's how you get a greater variety of players in the various all-time teams. Bradman and Sobers might be automatic choices, but how many of us have seen them play? And does that mean that future generations can pick only limited all-time teams?

How's this twelve from those I have seen in action: Gavaskar, Gordon Greenidge, Javed Miandad, Tendulkar, Richards, Sobers, Ian Botham, Alan Knott, Dale Steyn, Shane Warne, Malcolm Marshall, Erapalli Prasanna.

Ask me next week and I can give you another equally strong side! Therein lies the joy of selecting all-time teams.

Easy opener for Rawat

Sports Bureau
MYSURU

Seventh-seeded Sidharth Rawat outsmarted USA's Dali Blanch 6-3, 6-2 in the men's singles first round of the M25 WTT Mysuru Open at the MTC courts on Tuesday.

In another first round encounter, Kolkata's Ishaque Eqbal beat wild-card entrant and local boy Suraj R. Prabodh 7-6(4), 6-0.

The results: Men: First round: Ishaque Eqbal bt Suraj R. Prabodh 7-6(4), 6-0; Sidharth Rawat bt Dali Blanch (USA) 6-3, 6-2; Faisal Qamar bt Rishi Reddy 6-1, 6-1; Karan Singh bt Grigory Lomakin (Kaz) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(3); Woobin Shin (Kor) bt Madhwin Kamath 6-1, 1-0 (retd.); Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) bt D.K. Sandesh 7-5, 6-1.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Bax Florent & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Digvijay Pratap Singh & Jagmeet Singh 6-3, 6-2; Parikshit Somani & Manish Suresh Kumar bt L. Bathrinath & Tushar Madan 6-2, 6-3; B. Rithvik Choudary & Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha bt S.D. Prajwal Dev & Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta 6-7(3), 7-6(6), [10-7]; Blake Ellis & Vladyslav Orlov bt Suraj R. Prabodh & Rishi Reddy 6-1, 6-2; Faizal Qamar & Fardeen Quamar bt Chandril Sood & Lakshit Sood 1-6, 6-4, [10-8].